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The soldier's text-book

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SOLDIER'S TEXT BOOK.

Joseph W^m

Burdick

Rockville

BS

This come
from War

THE
Soldier's Text-Book:

OR,

CONFIDENCE IN TIME OF WAR.

BY THE REV. J. R. MACDUFF, D. D.

“Though a host should encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear: though WAR should
rise against me, IN THIS WILL I BE CONFIDENT.”
PSA. 27:3.

PUBLISHED BY THE
AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY,
150 NASSAU-STREET, NEW YORK.

THE
SOLDIER'S TEXT-BOOK.

SOLDIERS, I have compiled for your use this small "Pocket Companion," consisting of a few Texts selected from the word of God.

The music of the old Sabbath-bell of your city or village sanctuaries is now strange to you. But these glorious Bible truths, like the stars of heaven, shine with an unchanged and eternal lustre in all climes. They can prove messengers of peace and consolation in the hospital-ward or in the bivouac, as well as amid the homes of your happy fatherland.

Under the words—as a motto-verse—of an old soldier and warrior-king, who lived 3,000 years ago, I

have placed a verse for meditation, morning and evening. These, by the blessing of God, may prove crumbs of comfort—food for your souls—when duty, or danger, or weakness, may preclude more lengthened reading or continuous thought.

I know that it matters not by whom your bugles are sounded, when they stir and nerve the courage of thousands on the field of battle. It matters not by whom the Highland pibroch sends its thrilling summons to the hearts of my own brave countrymen; it is a summons never sent in vain.

Should these few peaceful notes of the “gospel trumpet” inspire one drooping spirit among you with confidence or hope, forgive the feebleness of the effort on my part, and to God give all the glory.

SOLDIER'S TEXT-BOOK.

FIRST MORNING OF MONTH.

"In this will I be Confident."

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." Deut. 33 : 27.

THE floods may be deep, but the everlasting arms are deeper still. The infinite necessities of man are surpassed by the infinite help and succor and comforts of God. When *He* gives, it is "exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think."

EVENING.

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever." Heb. 13 : 8.

SINCE I left friends and kindred and home, strange vicissitudes have befallen me ; but here is one Friend who changeth not. Blessed Jesus, thou art infinite, immutable. Of every thing else it may be said, "They shall perish," *but* "THOU remainest."

SECOND MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"We have no might against this great company that cometh against us, neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee." 2 Chron. 20:12.

THE enemy may be like grasshoppers for multitude, but a breath from the Almighty is able to scatter them like chaff before the whirlwind. Give us help from trouble, Lord; for vain is the help of man. "The battle is not ours, but God's.

EVENING.

"Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me." Jer. 49:11.

"THE Lord will provide." He will be a Father to the fatherless, and a Husband to the widow. He is a *wise* provider, a *kind* provider, a *rich* provider. With Him as their friend and portion, they need no other.

THIRD MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

“Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us unto God.”
1 Pet. 3:18.

AND shall I murmur? I, a poor sinner deserving nothing but wrath, *justly* suffering, when he, the innocent Lamb of God, murmured *not*? But for the pains of that sinless, spotless victim, *my* pains must have been *for ever*.

EVENING.

“I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee: be strong, and of a good courage.” Josh. 1:5, 6.

WHAT an argument for boldness in the day of suffering, or in the hour of conflict. “God is for me; who can be against me?” “Through God we shall do valiantly.” “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.”

FOURTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Pet. 3:13.

BLESSED hope! beyond this sin-stricken, woe-worn world, there is a heaven of "righteousness." It is secured to me by the promise of a God that cannot lie. Am I "looking" for it—am I *ready* for it?

EVENING.

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." 1 Tim. 1:15.

THIS brief verse preaches to me a whole gospel. Jesus, a Saviour *for the chief of sinners*. Resting my weary soul on such a golden saying, I am resigned to suffer—I am prepared to die.

FIFTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"The cities were great and fenced : if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said." Josh. 14 : 12.

"WHO will bring me into the strong city? . . . Wilt not thou, O God?" Let me feel this blessed confidence in thy presence and help. No power of man can withstand thy might : "The Lord gave the word . . . Kings of armies did flee apace." Psa. 68 : 12.

EVENING.

"Verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth."
Psa. 58 : 11.

WHAT a mournful reflection would it be were there "*no God*," were all that is now befalling us the result of *accident* and *chance*. But there is One on high ruling among the nations, who "judgeth righteous judgment : " "The Lord reigneth, let the earth be glad."

SIXTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"The children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the Lord God of their fathers."
2 Chron. 13 : 18.

LET this be my confidence in the hour of battle, I rely on "my fathers' God." "Our fathers trusted in thee, O God ; they trusted, and thou didst deliver them." "This God shall be our God for ever and ever."

EVENING.

"The prayer of faith will save the sick." James
5 : 15.

AM I now laid on a sick-bed ? the prayer of faith is still omnipotent to save me. If it be thy will, O God, let not this sickness be "unto death." Nevertheless, "not my will, but thine be done." I put my case in the hands of the great Physician, and leave it there.

SEVENTH MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us.” 1 John 3:16.

WHAT a love was this! I may be called in battle to lay down my life in fighting for my *friends*. *He* laid down his life in fighting for his *enemies*. After *such* a pledge of his love, I may well trust his faithfulness in all that befalls me.

EVENING.

“And he being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.” Acts 7:55.

BLESSED JESUS, let me be living by faith on thee now, that should I be hurried into “sudden death,” I may also behold thee waiting to welcome me to thy kingdom; and be ready, like thy servant, to “fall asleep.”

EIGHTH MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

“He will swallow up death in victory.” Isa.
25 : 8.

BLESSED consummation ! The worst evil I can fear is death ; and yet if I be a true believer—a subject of grace and an heir of glory, the hour of death is changed into the hour of victory. “Thanks be to God, who giveth me the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ.”

EVENING.

“The Lord will give strength unto his people ;
the Lord will bless his people with peace.”
Psa. 29 : 11.

“STRENGTH” and “peace”—the two things I most need : *strength* to bear and to suffer ; *peace* in the midst of much to cause uneasiness and pain. God promises both ; He gives grace equal to the hour of trial. “As thy day is, so shall thy strength be.”

NINTH MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

“I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ; which is far better.” Phil. 1:23.

BETTER indeed! if so the will of God be. Away from sorrow, suffering, sin. I desire to have no trust in a dying hour, but in a dying, ever-living Saviour. Christ, and Christ only, is in me “the hope of glory.”

EVENING.

“As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth, even for ever.” Psa. 125:2.

WHAT are the most impregnable of earth's bulwarks in comparison with the security of the everlasting covenant; and *my* security, if I am indeed a believer in Jesus?

TENTH MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

“I know their sorrows.” Exod. 3 : 7.

JESUS speaks here. He *knows* my sorrows, for he has *felt* them. Am I now suffering pain, bowed down with bodily weakness, or harassed with anticipated trial? let me think of Him who with tender sensitiveness *can* enter and *does* enter into every pang that rends the heart.

EVENING.

“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” 2 Tim. 1 : 12.

WHAT a glorious creed! My soul, is it thine? Truly I need not dread “battle, or murder, or sudden death,” if I have such a helmet as *this*, “*the hope of salvation.*”

ELEVENTH MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

“The Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee.” Deut. 23 :14.

WHAT a Sentinel is here ! The pillar-cloud of Jehovah's presence with me by day, the pillar of fire by night. The thought may well soothe me in pain, animate me in duty, and prepare me for trial. “God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved : God shall help her, and that right early.”

EVENING.

“Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” John 6 :37.

HE might long ere now have cast me off for ever. How wondrous His patience ! A poor worthless cumberer spared. At this hour the golden gates of mercy are still open—God is waiting to be gracious.

TWELFTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

'O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, thy will be done.'
Matt. 26 : 42.

EVERY cup is put into our hands by God. He has some gracious end in mingling it. How soothing to cherish the Saviour's spirit of meek submission. He is "*my Father.*" That *word* may well lull every misgiving and fear.

EVENING.

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered." Psa. 32 : 1.

Do I know this blessedness? Have I fled to the Lord Jesus as my only Saviour? Do I feel that all the transgressions of my past life are in Him freely forgiven? What a sustaining hope is this for a living — what a smooth pillow for a dying hour.

THIRTEENTH MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

“The Lord reigneth.” Psa. 97 : 1.

SUBLIME thought! The reins of universal government in God's hand. All that befalls me decreed by Him. “Man proposeth, but God disposeth.” “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

EVENING.

“I am poor and needy, yet the Lord thinketh on me.” Psa. 11 : 17.

MANY distant and beloved relations and friends are now “thinking on me;” the reflection cheers and revives my spirit. A mightier than human friend is doing the same. An eye in heaven is watching me, and a heart in heaven is feeling for me. “The LORD is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”

FOURTEENTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies." Psa. 25 : 10.

It may not *seem* so : at present, mine may be a path of perplexity and pain, toil and weariness ; but God has some wise end in all his leadings. He will guide me by a right way. Let me trust him if I cannot trace him.

EVENING.

"Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy." Psa. 61 : 3.

THERE is no greater argument for trusting in God for the future, than remembering his kindness and faithfulness in the past. "Thou *hast* been my help ; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation."

FIFTEENTH MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes ; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain ; for the former things are passed away.” Rev. 21 : 4.

HAPPY prospect ! when I shall forget my present aching hours, this racked body and wearied spirit, and be ushered into the bright sunshine of a tearless, painless, sorrowless world. “Oh that I had wings like a dove ; for then would I fly away, and be at rest.”

EVENING.

“In my Father's house are many mansions.”

John 14 : 2.

THE home of earth I may never see again ; the music of earthly home-voices may never again greet my ears ; but I have a Father's home in heaven, where suffering and sin shall never more be either felt or feared. Lord, teach me, as a *pilgrim* here to “desire” this “better country.”

SIXTEENTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"We may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shalt do unto me."
Heb. 13 : 6.

WHAT a glorious motto in a time of trouble! The power of man is finite; it can go no further than Omnipotence permits. But the resources of God are infinite: "What time I am afraid I will trust in thee."

EVENING.

"The shields of the earth belong unto God."

Psa. 47 : 9.

I ADORE thy sovereignty, O thou Governor among the nations. Kings and princes and monarchs are in thy hand. What a comfort to feel assured that no enemy is allowed to go further than thou permittest. "The Lord sitteth upon the flood; yea, the Lord sitteth King for ever."

SEVENTEENTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." Jas. 4:8.

WHAT an encouragement to the faint and weary soul, when home is distant, friends absent, foes around, heart and flesh failing, that the Friend of all friends is ever near! "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised. So shall I be saved from mine enemies."

EVENING.

"Thou which hast showed me great and sore troubles shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth."
Psa. 71:20.

I SHALL rest in this gracious assurance. I may have been recently brought to the brink of destruction; "verily a step between me and death." But I am still spared a miracle of mercy. Lord, make me also a miracle of grace.

EIGHTEENTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8 : 28.

Am I called of God? Am I conscious, however feebly, of loving him? Then whatever befalls me is, in a way I cannot perhaps at present understand, combining for my good. In heaven I shall see and acknowledge that all was *meant* so, and *was* so.

EVENING.

"Thus saith the Lord thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go." Isa. 48 : 17.

WHAT are the present teachings of my God—lessons enforced "by terrible things in righteousness?" He would teach me to repose in him as my Helper in trouble; to live from hour to hour in preparation for death; and to put all my trust in the merits of that Saviour, who "hath borne my griefs and carried my sorrows."

NINETEENTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us, and to fight our battles." 2 Chron. 32:8.

WHAT a comfort, the assurance that there is a God "judging righteously," who "girdeth us with strength unto the battle." Let others boast in their "arm of flesh," "but we will remember the name of the Lord our God."

EVENING.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"
Rom. 8:35.

NOTHING *will*; nothing *can*. I may be separated from friends, comrades, home, all I most love on earth, but thou, O blessed Redeemer, art always at my side. Even if death should overtake me, it cannot sever from *thee*. Thine is a love strong as death, surviving death, enduring as eternity.

TWENTIETH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Prov. 18:10.

EVERY attribute of His nature is a strong bulwark in this tower. Everlasting Love, Power, Wisdom, Truth, Faithfulness. "Thou wilt keep him, O God, in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee."

EVENING.

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me." Psa. 138:7.

MAY such, Lord, be my experience. I am walking in the midst of trouble: without are fightings, within are fears. "Wilt thou not revive me?" "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

TWENTY-FIRST MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"I am he that liveth, and was dead ; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen ; and have the keys of hell and of death." Rev. 1 : 18.

THE keys of the grave and death are in the hands of Him who *died* for me, who *lives* for me, who *pleads* for me, and if I am suffering, who *feels* for me. With such an assurance, whether life or death be in my cup, all must be well.

EVENING.

"Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel : I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." Isa. 41 : 14.

WHAT a comforting promise !
 "Worm," man in his weakness.
 "Jacob," the believer strong in his covenant security. "Fear not."
 Why ? I am *Jehovah*. I am thy *Redeemer*. I am a *holy* God. I am the God of *Israel*, and as *such* "I will help thee."

TWENTY-SECOND MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"My God shall supply all your need, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19.

My need is infinite, but my help is infinite; a *wise* Provider, a *kind* Provider, an *almighty* Provider—and *all in Jesus*.

EVENING.

"In the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock." Psa. 27:5.

LORD, hide me in the clefts of the Rock of ages until the indignation be overpast. Thy presence and love are never so precious as in the time of trouble. O God of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

TWENTY-THIRD MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

“He hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.” Hos. 6:1.

WHAT a comfort to see no other hand but thine, O God, in all that befalls me. Men may speak of “the bow being drawn at a venture,” but the arrow’s path was marked out by *thee*. I adore thy sovereignty. I rejoice in thy mercy. THOU hast torn, THOU hast smitten: THOU canst heal, THOU canst bind.

EVENING.

“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.” Isa. 53:4.

AM I now a great sufferer? What, after all, am I enduring? Only a few ripples in the tide of woe. Whereas my Saviour has borne, and borne for *me*, all the waves and billows of wrath. In comparison with *his*, mine surely are “*light afflictions.*”

TWENTY-FOURTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"The Lord is good, a strong-hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." Nahum 1:7.

God is *good*, God is *strong*, God is *mindful*. What a blessed threefold link in the chain of divine comfort. It is in the day of trouble he delights more especially to manifest his goodness. As an earthly father loves his child most in its hour of sickness and pain, so with my Father in heaven, "He knows my soul in *adversities*."

EVENING.

"Yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." Heb. 10:37.

"A LITTLE while," and then sorrow, suffering, tears, death, sin, will be known no more. Let me compose myself to sleep, or rest my aching head on its pillow, with the joyous thought, "Soon to be with Christ, and that for ever and ever."

TWENTY-FIFTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."
Rev. 19 : 16.

ALL the plans, purposes, designs of the monarchs of the earth are under the control of this King of kings. He is using them as instruments for the promotion of his own cause and glory. Christ holds the "seven stars in his right hand." He is King of his church. He is King of nations.

EVENING.

"The Lord is nigh unto them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth." Psa. 34 : 18.

PRAYER has lost none of its efficacy. When other help and hope is gone, when the enemy is coming in like a flood, how comforting to think that "the Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters." This is his own recorded promise, "Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

TWENTY-SIXTH MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.

Do I feel my sins the sorest of my wounds, the bitterest of my trials? My God is waiting to forgive and forget them all. He is *faithful* to do so; he is *just* to do so. He is as able as he is willing, and as willing as he is able to save.

EVENING.

“He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth.” Psa. 46:9.

THOU, Lord, alone canst stem the tide of passion, sheathe the sword of war, and make the wrath of man to praise thee. Oh hasten that happy time when “violence shall no more be heard;” when “nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

TWENTY-SEVENTH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"Casting all your care upon Him, for he careth for you." 1 Peter 5 : 7.

"HE careth !" The great Being who counts the number of the stars, numbers all my woes and pains and sorrows ! What multiplied proofs he has given in the past that "he careth for me !" I may well confide to him the "unknown morrow."

EVENING.

"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee ; for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee." Psalm 9 : 9, 10.

Do I thus "know" the name of God ? It is a bulwark of strength to all his people. What tenderness, what faithfulness, what power, what love ! Sheltered here, I am safe—I am happy.

TWENTY-EIGHTH MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

‘When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee ; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee : when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned ; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.’ Isaiah 43 : 2.

“WATERS,” “streams,” “floods,” “rivers,” “fire !” How manifold are the trials of God’s people ! But he has promised to be with them *in* all, and to bear them *through* all.

EVENING.

“Commit thy way unto the Lord ; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass.” Psalm 37 : 5.

Is my way dark—hedged up with thorns ? Let me repose in God. My times are in his hand. I could not wish them in other or better. “O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.”

TWENTY-NINTH MORNING.

“In this will I be Confident.”

‘Eben-ezer : hitherto hath the Lord helped us.’

1 Sam. 7 : 12.

CAN I too not set up this “stone of remembrance?” How multiplied have been the tokens of God’s goodness ! The past is crowded with monuments and memorials of love and patience and forbearance. “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me ?”

EVENING.

“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water ; he turneth it whithersoever he will.” Prov. 21 : 1.

“KINGS of the earth may set themselves, and rulers may take counsel together against the Lord.” But a word, a look from him, will “bring the counsel of the heathen to naught, and make the devices of the people of none effect.” “Arise, O God, and plead thine own cause.”

THIRTIETH MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"If when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." 1 Peter 2 : 20.

How God loves the grace of patience—unmurmuring submission to his appointments. Not regarding him as a hard master ; but feeling, even when our trials seem severe, how light and trivial they are in comparison with what our sins have deserved.

EVENING.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil : for thou art with me ; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23 : 4.

THIS may ere long be my experience. Lord Jesus, support me in my conflict with the "last enemy." Thou hast thyself trodden the valley of death. Thou hadst no friend to guide thee through. But "thy rod and thy staff," yea, thine own presence, are pledged to comfort me.

THIRTY-FIRST MORNING.

"In this will I be Confident."

"For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall." Isaiah 25 : 4.

WHAT is the blast of the terrible ones when I have such a "strong tower" as this? "Behold, God himself is with us for our Captain." "Help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee." 2 Chron. 14 : 11.

EVENING.

"There shall be no night there." Rev. 21 : 26.

Soon the last shadow of life's long night of weeping shall have passed away for ever? In an unsinning and unsorrowing heaven, war, tumult, pain, sickness, battle, bloodshed, shall be words unknown. "Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? *The morning cometh.*"

MORNING PRAYER.

O LORD, thou art great and greatly to be feared; thy greatness is unsearchable. Thou doest according to thy will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. None can stay thy hand from working; none dare say unto thee, What doest thou?

I bless thee that though thou art the greatest of all beings, thou art also the kindest and best of all. Thou art in Christ waiting to be gracious; not willing that any should perish, but that all should come unto thee and live. I desire on this, the morning of a new day, to confess at the footstool of thy throne my many sins, in all their heinousness and aggravation. Blot them out of the book of thy remembrance, that they may

not rise up in judgment to condemn me. Enable me to love thee more, and to serve thee better. While faithful to my duties as an earthly soldier, may it be my highest ambition to be "a good soldier of Jesus Christ," to "fight the good fight of faith, and to lay hold on eternal life."

Guide, guard, protect me this day. Preserve my body from danger and my soul from sin. It is thou, Lord, only who makest me to dwell in safety.

Bless my rulers and country ; bless my brother-soldiers and officers. Prosper our arms by sea and land, and in a righteous cause do thou lead us on to victory.

Take all my dear friends at home under thine especial care. Give thine angels charge over them to encamp round about them, and bear them up

in all their ways. Number them with thy saints in glory everlasting. These, and all other needful blessings, I ask in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

O God, I desire to draw near into thy gracious presence this evening, adoring and praising thee for the protecting care thou hast exercised towards me during another day. I am from day to day a pensioner on thy bounty : from thee I derive every comfort and blessing. I rejoice in the thought that "the Lord God omnipotent reigneth," and that all that befalls me is appointed by thee in infinite wisdom and love.

It is my earnest prayer that I may be united by a living faith to the Saviour. I rejoice to think of the fulness and all-sufficiency of his great salvation. Oh wash out all my transgressions in his precious blood. As I lie down to rest this night, may I have the blessed assurance that I am at peace with thee.

Lord, sanctify me wholly. May all thy present discipline lead me nearer thyself. Whether I live, may I live unto the Lord; and whether I die, may I die unto the Lord: living or dying may I be thine.

Bless all near and dear to me. May my beloved friends at a distance experience thy love and sympathy and care. They never can be distant from thee, thou ever-present God. Guide them, protect them, comfort them. If

I should never again meet them on earth, may we meet in that better world where parting is unknown.

Bless all my fellow-soldiers; may they ever esteem it their highest duty to fear God, while they honor their rulers. Support the weak, restore the wounded, sustain the dying. It is thou, Lord, only who fightest our battles for us. Do thou crown our efforts with victory. "Through God we shall do valiantly, for he it is that shall tread down our enemies."

Hear these my humble supplications; and all I ask is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

A SOLDIER'S PRAYER ON THE EVE
OF BATTLE.

O God, I desire to come to the footstool of thy throne in this solemn hour, rejoicing in the assurance that

“the Lord God omnipotent reigneth,” and that the “shields of the earth” are only thine. I beseech thee mercifully to strengthen me for every trying duty. Cover my head in the day of battle. Inspire me with all needful courage in a righteous cause. Let me feel the precious conviction that life and death are in *thy* hand. “Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me, my glory, and the lifter up of my head.” Psa. 3 : 3.

Do thou conduct our valiant troops to victory. “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

I earnestly entreat thee that, through the merits of thy dear Son, all my many sins may be forgiven. If death should overtake me in the

field, may I die at peace with thee ; reposing in the gracious assurance that Jesus is "able to *save unto the uttermost.*" Bless all my comrades, have mercy on their souls. Impart to them also devoted and unflinching courage in the hour of conflict.

I would more especially plead with thee in behalf of my beloved relations at a distance. If thou in thy sovereignty shouldst ordain that this be my *last* prayer for them, do thou, who art the "Father of the fatherless, the Husband of the widow," better than the best and dearest of earthly friends, be their comforter, sustainer, protector, and guide. Oh, never leave and never forsake them.

Lord, my hope is in thee. I will go fearlessly in the strength of the Lord God. Keep me in the hollow

of thy hand. Hide me under the shadow of thy wings. May the Lord of hosts be with us—may the God of Jacob be our refuge. Amen.

PRAYER OF A WOUNDED SOLDIER.

O God, draw near to me in the multitude of thy mercies. Pity my sufferings, relieve my distress, bind up my wounds. Thy hand is never shortened, that it cannot save. Do thou bring me back from the gates of death, that I may once more be among the living to praise thee? Sanctify all thy dealings to my soul. May I be led to know more and more of the preciousness of Christ, and of his great salvation; and if it be thy blessed will to spare me, may the

life prolonged by thy bounty be given to thy service.

I pray for all my fellow-sufferers. Lord, ease their pains. Grant them relief under severe bodily anguish. Give to them and to me patience to bear whatever thy hand has laid upon us. May we in the midst of our sufferings remember him who, as our Redeemer, suffered infinitely greater anguish for us. Prepare my dying comrades for death. Fit them for their eternal change.

I pray for my beloved relatives and friends at home. The Lord watch between them and me when we are absent one from another. Let them know that thou art faithful who hast promised, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

Bless our rulers and country. Bless

our armies by sea and land, our officers, our soldiers, our brave allies. Do thou crown a righteous cause with victory. "Arise, O Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered."

Forgive all my many sins, blot them out in the blood of Jesus. Living or dying, Lord, may I be thine. And all that I ask is for the sake of him who is my only Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER OF A DYING SOLDIER.

O God, I beseech thee to look down upon me in thy great mercy. I am about to leave this world. Guilty and unworthy in myself, all my hope for mercy is in the merits of Jesus Christ, my blessed Saviour. I would lay hold as a dying sinner on the precious assurance that "He is able to save unto

the uttermost," and that his blood can wash away even such guilt as mine.

Oh, forgive all my past iniquities, and let me fall asleep in Jesus, in the blessed hope of eternal life. Give me patience to endure whatever I may have yet to suffer; and as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, let me fear no evil, feeling that thou art with me.

I would especially commend to thy gracious care and keeping all my beloved relatives and friends at home. We shall meet no more in this world; Oh may we all meet before thy throne in glory. Do thou bind up their broken hearts, and give them strength and grace to submit to thy will. Be thou their everlasting friend and portion; may they take comfort in thine own gracious promise: "Leave thy

fatherless children, I will preserve them alive ; and let thy widows trust in me."

I pray for thy blessing on my fellow-soldiers. I pray for thy forgiveness to my enemies. Pity the wounded, relieve the prisoners, support the dying.

And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee. Have thou mercy on my soul. Smooth my death-pillow. Give me a peaceful entrance into the world of spirits. Take me to thyself to dwell for ever in glory, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my only Saviour. Amen.

GIVE PEACE IN OUR TIME, O LORD, BECAUSE THERE IS NONE OTHER THAT FIGHTETH FOR US, BUT ONLY THOU, O GOD

APPENDIX

TO THE AMERICAN EDITION

CITIZEN SOLDIER:

You go forth at your country's call, to uphold your country's honor, and preserve her institutions.

Permit a friend to give you a few hints in the way of advice.

Cherish a deep feeling of dependence on Almighty God, who alone can shield you in the hour of danger, and crown your mission with success.

Remember the Sabbath-day, and endeavor to keep it holy unto the Lord.

Be sure to carry your Bible with

[Citizen Soldier and Prayer in German.]

Bürger-Soldat :

Du ziehst auf den Ruf deines Landes aus, um dessen Ehre zu retten und dessen Verfassung aufrechtzuhalten.

Erlaube einem Freunde, dir einige Winke zu geben, welche dir nützlich seyn können.

Hege stets ein tiefes Gefühl deiner Abhängigkeit von dem allmächtigen Gott, der allein in der Stunde der Gefahr dich schützen und deine Aufgabe mit Erfolg krönen kann.

Gedenke des Sabbath-Tages und suche ihn dem Herrn zu heiligen.

Vergiß nicht, deine Bibel mitzunehmen, und gebrauche sie als ein Buch, das den Menschen zu einer

you, and use it as a book given to men to be a lamp unto their feet, and a light unto their path.

Seek to make your camp a Christian camp, where daily prayer shall be offered to God.

Allow no vindictive or revengeful passion to have a place in your heart.

Let your very calling remind you that there is but a step between you and death.

General Havelock was not the worse soldier for being a devout Christian.

The great and good Washington discountenanced profane swearing in the army, both by precept and example.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”

Leuchte ihrer Füße und zu einem Licht auf ihrem Wege gegeben ist.

Suche dein Feldlager ein christliches Feldlager zu machen, wo tägliches Gebet zu Gott geopfert wird.

Gib keiner rachsüchtigen oder böshaften Leidenschaft in deinem Herzen Raum.

Laß schon deinen Beruf dich daran erinnern, daß nur ein Schritt zwischen dir und dem Tode ist.

General Havelock war darum kein schlechterer Soldat, weil er ein eifriger Christ war.

Der große und gute Washington gab seinen Widerwillen gegen Fluchen und Schwören in der Armee mit Wort und That zu erkennen.

„Glaube an den Herrn Jesum Christ, so wirst du selig.“

SOLDIER'S PRAYER.

O GOD, for CHRIST's sake, give me thy HOLY SPIRIT. I open my heart to *thee*; come in and take possession of my soul. Pardon all my sins; they are very many, and nothing but the blood of JESUS can wash them all away. Help me to be a *faithful soldier* of JESUS CHRIST, and to lead a new and holy life; or, if I must sacrifice my life for my country, then, LORD JESUS, receive my Spirit. All which I ask in the name and for the sake of thy Son JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Soldaten-Gebet.

O Gott, gib mir um Christi willen deinen heiligen Geist! Ich thue Dir mein Herz auf, komm und nimm Besitz davon! Vergib mir alle meine Sünden! ihrer sind viel, und nur das Blut Jesu kann sie alle wegnehmen. Hilf mir, ein treuer Streiter Jesu Christi zu werden und ein neues heiliges Leben zu führen, und wenn ich für das Land meiner Wahl das Leben lassen muß, dann nimm Du, Herr Jesu, meinen Geist auf! Das bitte ich von Dir, o Gott, um deines Sohnes, meines Herrn und Heilandes Jesu Christi willen. Amen.

WASHINGTON'S PRAYER.*

And now, ALMIGHTY FATHER, if it is thy holy will that we shall obtain a place and name among the nations of the earth, grant that we may be enabled to show our gratitude for thy goodness, by our endeavors to fear and obey thee. Bless us with wisdom in our councils, success in battle, and let all our victories be tempered with humanity. Endow also our enemies with enlightened

* In M'Guire's "Religious Opinions and Character of Washington," it is stated, that in the summer of 1779, Washington, exploring alone the position of the British forces on the banks of the Hudson, took shelter for the night in the cottage of a pious American peasant, who, greatly struck with the language and manner of his guest, overheard this prayer from the father of his country.

minds, that they become sensible of their injustice, and willing to restore our liberty and peace. Grant the petition of thy servant, for the sake of Him thou hast called thy beloved Son; nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done.

A SOLDIER'S PRAYER.

O God, be merciful to me a sinner; wash me from all my sins in the Saviour's blood; fill me with the Holy Spirit; strengthen me for every trying duty; inspire me with all needful courage in a righteous cause; cover my head in the day of battle. My hope is in thee alone; do me all the good I need, and save me in thy kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.

ADVICE TO YOUNG SOLDIERS.

WRITE often to your friends. They will wish much to hear from you.

Remember how much statesmen and patriots, fathers and mothers, sisters and wives, rely on your fidelity and courage.

Think of your responsibility to your country, whose rights and honor you are called to defend. "England," said Lord Nelson, "expects every man to do his duty."

Your names will be recorded in the future history of your country. Napoleon, pointing to the pyramids, exclaimed, "Forty centuries look down upon us." With much more truth, the American general may exclaim, "Soldiers, forty centuries will look back upon us."

Shun petty quarrels and insults among yourselves. Be civil, gentlemanly to all, forgetful of political party or ancestral origin. You represent one nation—one in reputation, interest, and hope.

Be punctual, be orderly, submit to discipline, set an example of obedience, and mingle kindness with bravery.

Reverence God. He is the Lord of hosts. Nations and individuals depend on him.

Never gamble, whether for money or amusement. Read history, study geography, form classes in arithmetic, surveying, engineering, algebra. "The camp," said one, "was my best school."

Read the Bible every day, as the

inspired word of God, the standard of Christian faith and duty. Chief Justice Hale and John Quincy Adams read the Scriptures daily.

Attend public worship, cultivate the habit of private prayer, sanctify the Sabbath.

Keep a good conscience towards God and man. Peace in the soul tends to impart the truest courage.

Forgive your enemies. Do not retain envy or malice.

By repentance for sin and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, make your peace with God. Trust in God has a marvellous power to sustain and comfort the soul. "Trust ye in the Lord for ever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength."

THE SOLDIER PLEDGE.

WE, the undersigned, United States Volunteers, remembering the teachings of our fathers, and the sentiment of the community from whence we come—most of all desiring so to order our ways that the God of battles may be pleased to bless us in the effort we are about to make for the honor of our national flag and the upholding of our laws—do hereby PLEDGE ourselves, God helping us, to keep and observe the following resolutions :

I. We will abstain entirely from the use of ardent spirits of any kind.

II. We will abstain from and, as far as in us lies, discountenance the use of profane or improper language in our ranks.

III. We will endeavor to observe the Sabbath-day to keep it holy, to read the Scriptures, and encourage prayer and the worship of God in the midst of us.

IV. We will, as we hope to be brave in the hour of conflict, be kind and compassionate in the hour of victory, especially to women and children, remembering our loved ones at home.

And may God give us grace to keep these resolutions. Amen.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL-CHAMBER, Boston, May 15, 1861. }

Upon the recommendation of the Medical Commission, His Excellency Governor Andrew orders the publication of the following directions for the sanitary conduct of troops in the field, which constitutes the substance of a report prepared by Dr. Ware, and will be communicated to the Massachusetts regiments in active service.

A. G. BROWN, Jr., Private Secretary.

IMPORTANT SANITARY DIRECTIONS.

Soldiers should recollect that in a campaign, where one dies in battle, from three to five die of disease. You should be on your guard, therefore, more against this than the enemy, and you can do much for yourselves which nobody can do for you.

1. Avoid especially all use of ardent spirits. If you will take them, take them rather

after fatigue than before. But tea and coffee are much better. Those who use ardent spirits are always the first to be sick and the most likely to die.

2. Avoid drinking freely of very cold water, especially when hot or fatigued, or directly after meals. Water quenches thirst better when not very cold and sipped in moderate quantities slowly, though less agreeable. At meals, tea, coffee, and chocolate are best. Between meals, *the less the better*. The safest in hot weather is molasses and water with ginger or small beer.

3. Avoid all excesses and irregularities in eating and drinking. Eat sparingly of salt and smoked meats, and make it up by more vegetables, as squash, potatoes, peas, rice, hominy, Indian meal, etc., when you can get them. Eat little between, when you have plenty at meals.

4. Wear flannel all over in all weathers. Have it washed often when you can; when not, have it hung in the sun. Take every opportunity to do the same by all your

clothing, and keep every thing about your person dry, especially when it is cold.

5. Do not sit, and especially do not sleep upon the ground, even in hot weather. Spread your blanket upon hay, straw, shavings, brushwood, or any thing of the kind. If you sleep in the day, have some extra covering over you.

6. Sleep as much as you can and whenever you can. It is better to sleep too warm than too cold.

7. Recollect that cold and dampness are great breeders of disease. Have a fire to sit around whenever you can, especially in the evening and after rain, and take care to dry every thing in and about your persons and tents.

8. Take every opportunity of washing the whole body with soap and water. Rub well afterwards. If you bathe, remain in the water but a little while.

9. If disease begins to prevail, wear a wide bandage of flannel around the bowels.

10. Keep in the open air, but not directly

exposed to a hot sun. When obliged to do this, a thin, light, white covering over the head and neck, in the form of a cap with a cape, is a good protection. Green leaves in the top of the hat may prevent sun-stroke.

11. Wear shoes with very thick soles, and keep them dry. When on the march, rubbing the feet after washing with oil, fat, or tallow, protects against foot-sores.

Memorandum
of
the
Board
of
Directors

