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THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL TIMES.

PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 4, 1863.

JOHN S. HART, Editor.

SOLDIERS' READING.

WORDS FOR THE ARMY.

Address of Major-General Howard.

AT an enthusiastic meeting in the American Academy of Music, Philadelphia, on the occasion of an address by the eloquent temperance orator, John B. Gough, Major-General O. O. Howard, of the Maine volunteers, was appointed to introduce the orator of the evening, and to say a word on the subject of temperance in the Union army.

The General himself was introduced by Ex-Governor Pollock, of Pennsylvania, in glowing words which were warmly applauded by the enthusiastic assembly. Among the audience were hundreds of convalescing soldiers from the hospitals of the city. These greeted the General with a soldier's heartiness, and cheer upon cheer went up as he stepped forth to deliver the following earnest words:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—After the exordium, it is quite presumptuous in a soldier to step forth to make a speech. I fear that my record at the close may not be equal to that at the beginning, but it gives me pleasure to be able to meet so many of the people of this city and to thank them for what they have done for me and for my brethren in arms. We came to your city in passing on our way to the theatre of war, and you met us at the depot, all covered with dust and weary with long traveling, and you gave us a chance to wash, and to eat, and refresh ourselves, and sent us on our way light-hearted. Then, you met us as we came back, wounded and sick, and you provided hospitals for us equal to hotels in comfort and luxury. We thank you with Christian and with patriotic hearts for your kindness. We understand you. We know it has come from the heart, and from those who would, if they could, go forth to do duty as we have done.

After thanking further the ladies of Philadelphia for the patriotic sacrifices they had made of their time, and labor, and their loved ones, and hoping that they would send forth more just such men to the field, the gallant General came to the special subject of the meeting. Said he:

The subject of temperance has always commended itself to my heart. When I took the command of the third Maine regiment, the first words I said to them were these: "There are two things that I HATE. The one is drunkenness, and the other is profanity. I set my face against them and shall do it." I loathe these two things. They are the worst enemies we have to encounter; for profanity sets us as rebels against God, and drunkenness makes us worse than rebels at home.

I have not had to complain in the army immediately under me of drunkenness on the part of the soldiers. Very few, indeed, of them are drunken. Very few, indeed, drink strong drink, and I am glad to say it. Very seldom have I seen a soldier under the influence of liquor, and I am glad to testify to it. But in so far as I have seen it, I have seen that to that degree the man became a brute, unfit for duty, not to be trusted.

A great many of my friends, those with whom I have been intimately connected from my boy-

and its rules,—and the idea seems to be very prevalent with the soldier that therefore he is at liberty to use profane language, and get drunk, even if he never did it before, and the moment he gets his uniform on he goes to the bar and drinks! The whole idea is wrong. Who is the soldier? He is a man. A man, too, who makes noble sacrifices for his country. In one sense he imitates the Divine Master, in taking his life in his hand, and devoting it to death, even, for the cause of truth and righteousness. He is the man who ought to be a Christian—who of all others ought to be prepared for life or for death, for time or for eternity. I say this, that if you increase everywhere, in the army and at home, the spirit of the religion of Christ, you increase the love of country and devotion to her cause.

Look for a moment at the noble work of the Christian Commission—to furnish religious instruction to the army. Do you suppose that their work ever diminished in the slightest degree the usefulness of the army? It is a theory with some men that the more you degrade the soldier the better he is for a soldier, the "better food for gunpowder." It is a false theory. Our theory is that the more you elevate the soldier the better soldier you make of him, the better will he do his duty on the field of battle, the more will he love his country, and the more ready will he be to make sacrifices for it. Not DEPRESSION but ELEVATION is the true motto for the army of a Christian republic. You will say perhaps, "How can officers govern the men if they are elevated?" They, too, must be elevated. They must be able to command men, not brutes. If you will allow me to say it, I never have found it a difficult thing to command my men. When the day of battle came they never hesitated. I had one of your regiments, the 81st Pennsylvania, at the battle of Fair Oaks. I ordered it to a certain position. It went there. The first shot from the enemy killed the Colonel of the regiment. In a little while the Lieutenant-Colonel was severely wounded, then the Major was killed, and various other officers were sacrificed, but the men did not flinch, and the regiment still exists, is still in good heart. Other regiments have done equally well and nobly, but I speak of this one, to show that our soldiers are not demoralized, and that they are not disorganized as some have asserted—though they have indeed suffered great privations and losses. A captain who went out with his command of 100 men now has perhaps only 50, or nearer the truth, only 15, yet they are not demoralized. Two weeks ago I left the Army of the Potomac, and in my quarter of it I saw nothing but cheerful faces, I heard no demoralizing words, there was nothing of insubordination. Everything went on with regularity and precision.

The speaker then referred to an exalted patriotic sentiment among the people leading to unswerving loyalty and undiminished devotion to the cause of our country, as the only sure promise of success in the present strife.

And what are we laboring for? he asked. For the preservation of those institutions that Washington and his compatriots labored and fought for, and transmitted to us. It was a precious trust committed to us. It cost long and hard marches, it cost fatigue, weariness, long night watchings, marching in the winter without shoes and without clothes, and discouragement upon discouragement, and it caused a revolution in society, but yet it was worth it all. For the end, the independence

sowing broadcast the bread of eternal life, which will surely spring up and bear fruit to the glory of God. To those loved and devoted Christians who are so kindly laboring, and giving, and praying for us, we would say, as soldiers, God bless you and keep you going in this good work. Do not stop nor grow tired of it. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand."

The eloquent, Christian, and patriotic addresses of some of our best and most prominent Generals now in the field, are being read with the greatest of interest. If the principles contained in those speeches were lived up to and carried out by the officer, it would render his name sacred to the soldier. The general who not only endorses, but squares his life by, those principles, has secured the love and respect of his men in a way and to a degree that is seldom gained upon the field of battle. Long have we seen and deeply felt the want of such men—men who will not only fight the battles of our country, but look to God for success. Our cause is just and holy. Its representatives should, therefore, be good men; they should be Christians; men who reverence the name and keep the commandments of God. I believe that it is no less true that the battles of the Israelites were fought by him who ruleth the destinies of all nations, and their armies, than it is that he would fight our battles, if as an army and people we would look unto him.

Is it to be doubted that when the day of our deliverance as an army and people comes, we shall be in a condition to acknowledge God as our deliverer? No, verily. That the end will be glorious and triumphant I have not a doubt. But when I look at the present condition of our army; when I look at that host of officers, leading their men into battle with profanity upon their tongues; when I see that vast multitudes are following their example, rushing headlong into danger and death; when I look upon that officer who will say, "God has nothing to do with this war," and then think of the sacrifice yet to be made in consequence of our wickedness, I tremble for my country, I tremble for those once happy homes, those breaking hearts, those innocent ones at home. But I thank God that all are not like these men. When we read such sentiments as are expressed in the speeches referred to, coming as they do from some of our leading men in the field, they are to be regarded as diamonds in the sand bank! How vivid is the recollection of Gen. Howard on the evening of the first day after the 64th regiment New York State volunteers were joined to his brigade at Camp California. Dress-parade being dismissed by prayer, he said that perhaps some might be solicitous to know by whom they are to be commanded, and what his principles are, &c. Said he, "I profess to be a Christian, a man who loves God, and tries to keep his commandments." From that day to this we have found him as true. He is loved by his men.

Some with whom I was associated at West Point, as cadets, have already disappeared under delirium, or from other of the terrible effects of strong drink. Some of the older men in the army, that is, in the regular service, will look at the lists and point to this man and to that, their early friends and comrades in arms, against whose name the record stands, "He died from drink;" "He died through drunkenness."

In camp life, when we are waiting and waiting for movements, when the mud and winter's cold make it impossible to accomplish much but to go through with the ordinary routine of camp life, the soldiers get tired and want something to do. They become often very impatient. They seem to be hungry. They hardly know how to occupy the time. They get tired of telling stories to each other, and they resort to cards and to drinking often. This idleness in camp and in the garrison is the occasion of much drinking, especially among the officers. Drinking is productive of ill effects wherever you find it. There is no man who ought to take command of a thousand men, who ever loses himself under the influence of liquor. I hold, therefore, to restraining the officers from drinking, as much, and even more than the men. I may say in my own case, that from early instructions at my mother's side, I have thought it proper to abstain from liquor. I did not drink at College; I did not drink at West Point; but after I came into the United States service I found that it was a social habit in the army. I found that if you went into an officer's quarters the first thing was to offer you something to drink. It was thought that you were not treated with proper respect and hospitality unless you did so. This is still the custom wherever the officer goes. And I myself fell into the habit. I drank whiskey and offered it to others. While stationed in Florida I offered whiskey once to an officer and he declined. I urged him to drink. He drank. A short time after, I attended him when his brain was reeling with delirium, and I made up my mind that it was wrong; that I never would do it again, and I have not. I do not keep it in my quarters, in my tent; I do not offer it to any officer or to any man, and I will not. I know this is a very hard position to put any man in, and especially any young army officer, but I can say from my own experience that it will him pay to do it. To maintain his reputation for generosity, hospitality and gentlemanly bearing he can take some other method of showing these traits. He must do this, otherwise he cannot have his own hands clean, and he will not be able to restrain or to punish others when they have, under the influence of drink, broken the laws of the army.

The General then delivered the following testimony against the evil habit of profanity in the army. Said he:

In this struggle, in which we are right, in this struggle for the very existence of our government, we claim that we need the protection and the blessing of Almighty God. And shall we go forth violating one of his precepts, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain?" We owe allegiance to him. He will chasten us, he will scourge us, till we recognize him. Shall we not then begin, at the outset, to reverence his holy name? It is not the preacher of the gospel alone, it is not the man of God alone, but it is the soldier who ought to be the Christian.

There is thought to be something very inconsistent, my friends, in a man's being a soldier and a Christian. It is argued by some that the very profession of a soldier, and his terrible work, place him in opposition to the law of God, and make him a sort of outcast from society

of this government, and the Constitution under which we have grown and thriven, and that we glory in. Now if all this was something to gain, is it not something to keep? -Will we sacrifice it? Will we grow faint-hearted and become cowards? Will we shrink from sacrifices, from the giving of our means and our lives, if needs be, for its defence? No. No. Such is not the heart of the American people. The heart of the people is all right.

Turning to the soldiers present, the General then remarked, in concluding:

I wish to say on behalf of the soldiers who have come out from the hospitals to-night, that as members of our common country, we thank them for the sacrifices they have made. We thank them that they have freely given their breasts to the storm, and for all that they have suffered, through fatigues and privations, the inclement season, an inhospitable climate; but I want to say to them that their work is appreciated, and that every one of them should be a man, should look ahead of him, and act for the time to come, for the time is coming, if it is not here now, when the soldier will be honored for having belonged to the forces of the United States in this crisis, honored as the old revolutionary heroes are now honored. I honor him now. I love the good soldier, who dares to stand up manfully for the truth and for right. I will welcome him back when this conflict is over, and he shall find in me one who will ever respect and honor him. But let me encourage you to be men—not to be led by this, that, or the other man. Be men yourselves. Command your own passions. Do not give way to temptations. Shun the vices of camp life. Many a dear mother and sister of yours would not shrink at the prospect of your loss of an arm or leg in the strife—but they do shrink at the bare thought of the loss of virtue and true manliness. Stand up, then, men, for your convictions of right and duty, wherever you are, avoid profane swearing, abstain from strong drink, *an nun*, and God bless you!

The General in a few words now introduced Mr. John B. Gough, as the eloquent advocate of the temperance reform, and sat down amidst the cheers of the vast audience.

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

CAMP NEAR FALMOUTH, VA.,
March 26, 1863.

DEAR TIMES:—For the last eighteen months I have been in camp. My heart is not only deeply concerned in the interests of our beloved country, but also in the spiritual welfare of my noble comrades in arms, who have left their homes and loved ones, with all their sacred ties and influences, that they might rally to the defence of our flag, to maintain its integrity and its honor.

Yesterday I was requested by our chaplain to assist in the distribution of a large number of excellent religious papers, sent to us by the United States Christian Commission. Among the number was the *Sunday-School Times*, (a paper which is always hailed with pleasure in camp), containing a report of a grand meeting of said Commission, held at Washington, on Washington's birthday.

In relation to this Commission, so patriotic, so Christ-like, too much cannot be said. Few can so fully appreciate the vast amount of good it is doing in the army as those who are intimately connected with the men in camp. And its real work will only be developed in eternity. While it is continually administering to the wants of the body, it is constantly

A soldier in camp, and member of the 64th regiment New York State volunteers, one who knows no compromise with the armed traitor,

B. S. SNIDER.