

A SOLDIER ON SERVICE.

By special request the following notes of an address given at the Church Parade are printed:—

ii Timothy ii., 4 (R.V.)—"No soldier on service entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who had chosen him to be a soldier."

In the Scriptures military analogies and illustrations abound, and are most effective to stir us up to make manifest in our Christian warfare the three outstanding characteristics of true military men, viz.,

DISCIPLINE! LOYALTY! COURAGE!

"And the soldiers demanded of Him, saying—And what shall we do?"—Luke iii., 14.

It is a good question to ask, and the answer will suit equally well the soldier of the nation and the soldier of the Cross.

First, come to know your *Great Commander*, the Captain of our Salvation. On the march to Khartoum the cry was "Remember Gordon," and all through life our cry must be "Remember the Lord Jesus."

Second, get accurate information about your *enemy*. There is unutterable sorrow in mistaking an enemy for a friend, and vice-versa. If sentinel conscience slumber, all is lost. Everyone has his own special enemy, you ought to know his tactics. Throw the searchlight of God's Word along the path by which you must go, and you need have little fear then of an ambush.

The enemy of your souls makes a notoriously bad use of the "white flag." We are in the enemy's country, and your rule must be always—proceed with caution and under cover. Have no fear: the Invisible Reserves are within call.

Thirdly, *yoursself*. No one is born a soldier.

You must ENLIST.

In the army of the Lord none are refused; make up your mind to it discipline is the first thing in the army and in life.

You must drill much in the barracks if you would show up well on parade. Knee-drill (and lots of it) is necessary to those who parade as Christians. Once you have enlisted you are a soldier—not yet a good one, nor a brave one, nor a skilled one—but a soldier nevertheless. And once your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life you are a Christian—not a good or useful one yet—but still one.

You must be a GOOD ONE.

The first thing in the regulations is to regulate yourself. Every soldier can make the army better. Don't forget you set the step to the one behind you. Others are always picking up their dressing by you.

Success is due to PLUCK.

It is not luck but pluck that accounts for fights won. You are not called to a sham-fight, where only blank ammunition is used. But the fight of faith is real, and it is a matter of victory and life, or defeat and death—all the V.C. men, where once recruits and all passed through the awkward squad.

If you want now to be a Christian, then at once come to—

ATTENTION!

RIGHT ABOUT TURN!

QUICK MARCH!

And never forget you have only a limited amount of ammunition. Your days will run out, and you will stand one day, your last shot fired, and the bugle will sound, and you will muster for the last roll-call; and then you will find there are soldiers in heaven, but they were soldiers of Christ, and to such the Great Commander's last order will be—P E A C E.