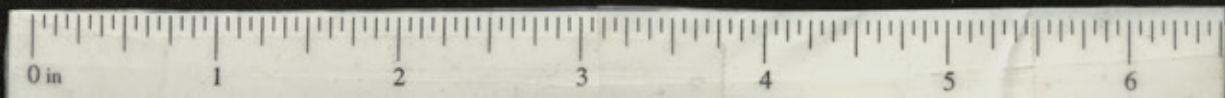
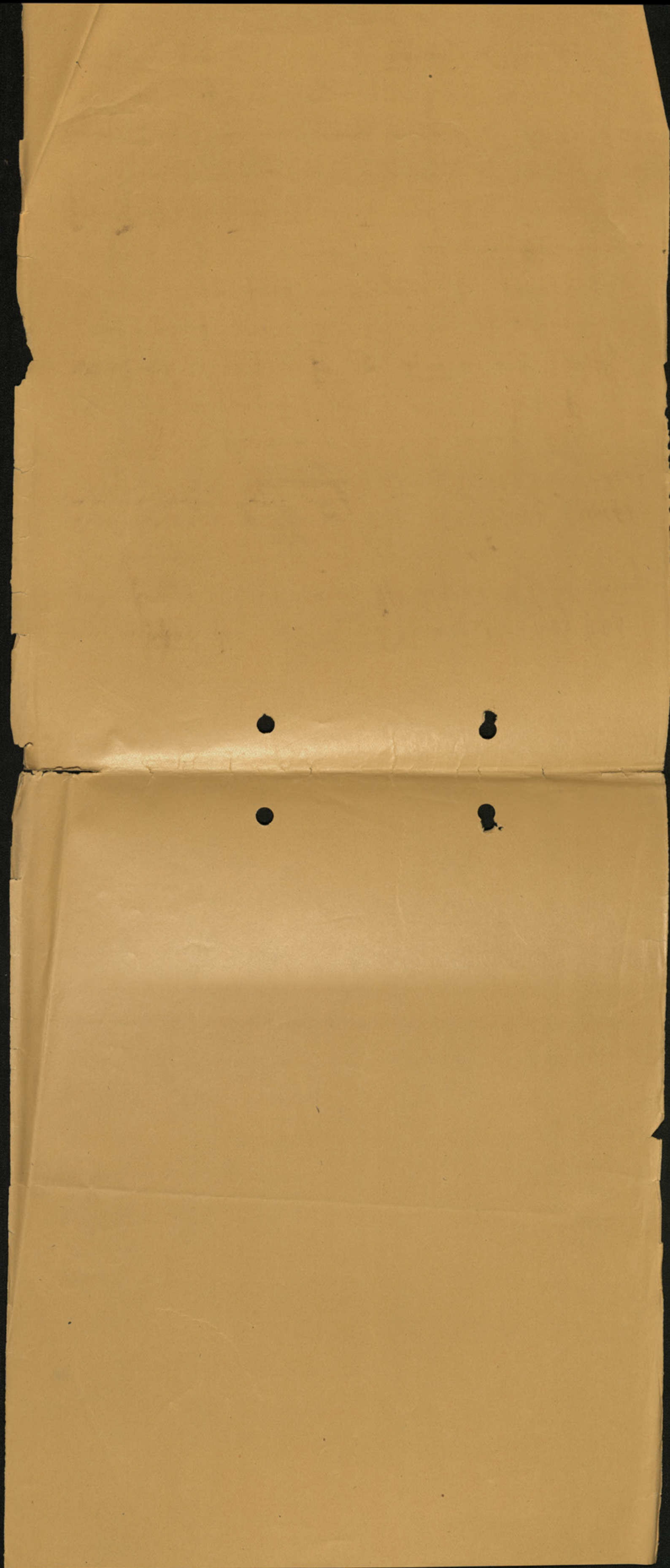


Christianity in Army life

Vol 7-No 8





Christianity in Army life.

Undoubtedly the army is not the very best school for commencing, developing & continuing the distinctive christian structure.

^{For this appears to be}
The philosophical reason ~~so~~ that the ends aimed ^{in army & christian effort} at are not ~~identical~~ altogether coincident.

If we choose a civil calling; say, that of the merchant; there is not a whit of what the ^{merchant} is called to do, that is not strictly consonant with the ^{work of} his own spiritual up-building. In fact in buying, his safest plan is to conform strictly to the christian law - for if he deviate from it and it is found out his commercial reputation is lowered and his business will sooner or later be injured. It is worse for him still in selling, for there will ^{than} be twenty witnesses against false sales to one against his false buying. The christian rule of hearty care



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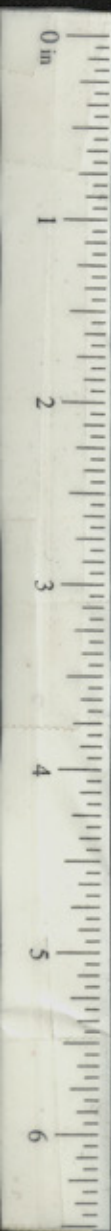
for other people's interest while he protects his own can only be arrived at completely by being a "Christian". Of course I mean by "Christian" ^{a man} ~~one~~, who stands in proper normal relation to his Heavenly Father.. This takes in every man, whether consciously or not, whose heart is right with ~~his~~ God.

The profession of the law is eminently fitted to find its best results in the most persistent conformity to Christian ethics.. The trickster & the pettyfogger leave no volumes of reference worth consulting.. Their triumphs are like those of the spider. Their victims may be tortured & killed but their gossamer webs are but transient traps for the unwary. ^{In my judgment} No circumstances exist that necessitate the lawyer's departure from Christian living.

The physician occupies, if any thing will justify eminence in this matter, even a higher



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vantage ground than the merchant or the lawyer, because of the increased opportunities offered him for applying the second table of the divine law, viz: "love thy neighbor as thyself?..

No profession furnishes such multitudinous occasions for benevolent action. The highest skill of science & the tenderest care of the loving nurse, compass the range of his province: ~~the~~ true holiness of heart ~~is~~ not only good for him but essential to his ~~the~~ best results as a practitioner.

Humblegery & quackery may get many of the loans & fishes, but it takes sincere worth permeated with divine help to secure eternal substance.

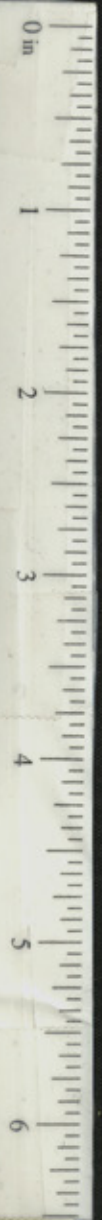
So we might examine minutely every lawful profession or trade and find the same truth emphasized. Our Heavenly Father is no respecter of persons.. He, of every nation, name & calling, who worketh righteousness is accepted of Him & helped by Him.

Then there will be no self defense - no defense
 of home & loved ones - no police restrictions - no
 judicial ^{criminal} findings, no executions and no armed
 host for state ~~to~~ protection. That will be
 the beginning of the millennium. The ~~Wolf~~ ^{Wolf} &
 the Lamb ^{shall feed} ~~shall feed~~ together & the lion
 shall eat straw like the bullock, and dust shall
 be the serpent's meat. Every christian word uttered in
 sincerity - ~~for~~ every christian effort put forth
 in honesty & faith, every new soul brought
 from a bad life to a good one is a step
 toward the ^{desired} consummation. While men have
 wrong in them ^{individually} they will be wrong in them
 collected together - ^{somewhat} wrong ⁱⁿ ^{their} ^{practices} ^{of} ^{men}. Whether they be farmers
 or merchants, lawyers or doctors, ministers
 or laymen. Our blessed Lord brot. his remedies
 to all classes. To the centurion who
 believed & acted ^{upon} his belief he said: I have
 seen no such faith no not in Israel. Here

By a long experience in the army, both in the instruction at the Academy and in the subsequent ~~experience~~ practical lessons in peace and in war, I am satisfied that Christian character may be begun, developed & continued through a lifetime in the army or navy.

This conclusion is based more on long & somewhat careful observation than on any mere theorizing.

Before citing examples, which is rather the purpose of this address, let us first see if there is any satisfactory answer to the general inquiry. "Is not ^{itself} war wrong?" The friends or quakers ^{assert} ~~assert~~ ^{the answer to this question} as a direct & binding rule: "All war is wrong." They therefore refuse to enter army or navy & endeavor to keep their children from aiding in these means of defence. Still as they pay their taxes & vote for supplies & for ^{the President who is} the Commander-in-Chief, they contribute largely, ~~the~~ perhaps under protest, to our war establishment.

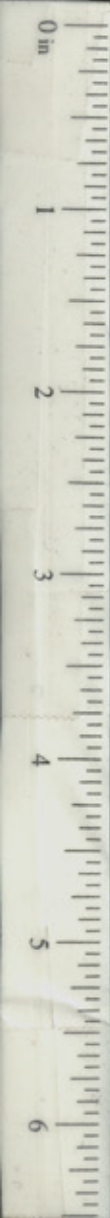


Our New England Metaphysicians & Statesmen have set down the same theory in their books & speeches. Charles Sumner's greatest, most elaborate, most learned production, was a speech against War - endeavoring to shew graphically its horrors, its enormous cost, its inadequacy to the settlement of national difficulties and trying to ^{of a few years later} pave the way to a sovereign remedy. Yet, ^{on the floor of his Senate} Charles Sumner was foremost in the advocacy of war measures against the southern rebellion; and the educated conscience of New England furnished the best of Captains to carry into execution ^{practical theories & proposed} his plans.

How are these apparent inconsistencies to be accounted for? I believe they arise from the too great strain of minds ^{that are} given to casuistic argument, ^{attempting} to generalize over much.

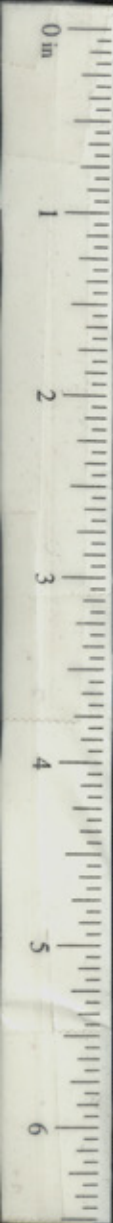
Let us start an argument in this way.

Is self-defense ever right? Yes; shew that a man



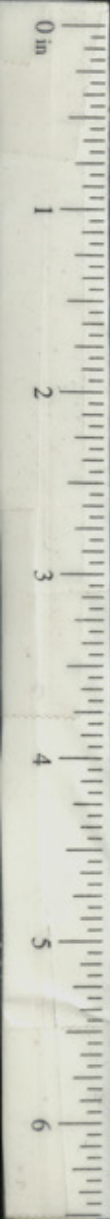
purely in self-defense took ~~the~~ ^{the} human life and he is clear under all ^{the} law. Is it ever right to defend the honor of wife and child even to the destruction of life? Certainly! Shew by the circumstances an absolute necessity and the slayer is justified. A step further; Is it right to have a police so appointed & furnished as to arrest & restrain thieves, burglars, highwaymen, murderers, incendiaries or any other persons who unlawfully put the community in peril of property & life? Yes, of course. Shall they have the means & the power granted them to ^{such criminals,} capture even if at times the criminal's life is endangered or taken? Certainly; the very existence of our cities depends on this award & exercise of ^{this} power.

Again after the judge has pronounced the sentence of the law that certain criminals shall suffer the extreme penalty of death. is it right to have an organized party of men ^{bound} solemnly to execute this sentence? Or even



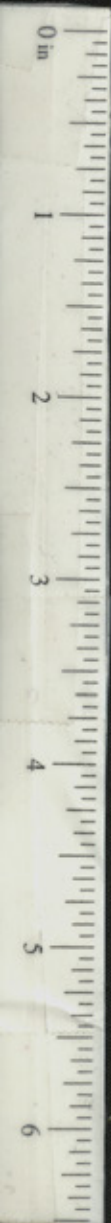
modern reasoners¹
when ~~you~~ have so exalted human life
into a divine essence, as to object to capital
punishment ^{altogether,} is it wrong to have a sheriff &
posse & all the ^{necessary} appointees to ~~keep~~ put criminals
within solid walls & prevent their escape therefrom
even to the taking of life ^{in emergency} ~~of necessity~~? Surely
this must be so. Step ^{then} from the city to the next higher
element in social living, the state.. The police of a
state is an army.. By the use of it the chief
officer of the state defends the very existence &
well being of a state. This defense is war.

How then will we ^{reply to} ~~answer~~ the inquiry: is not
war ^{itself} wrong? The plain answer is no; not always!
There must be ^{it is true} wrong somewhere; there always is
when there is war. Sometimes it is on one side
and sometimes on the other and often on
both sides either in what went before or
what immediately brought it on. and when
human society shall become so perfected in all
its individual members that there shall be no crime.



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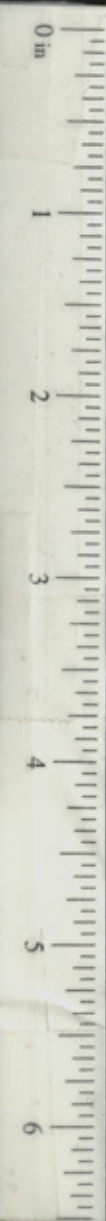
Then there will be no self-defense - no defense
of home and loved ones - no police restrictions -
no judicial, criminal findings - no executions
And no armed host for state protection. That will be the
beginning of the millennium. Then: "The wolf and the lamb
shall feed together and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock, &
dust shall be the serpent's meat. Every christian word uttered
in sincerity - every christian effort put forth in honesty &
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men have wrong in them individually, there will be
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in the practices of these men. This will be true, whether they be
farmers or merchants, lawyers or doctors, ministers or
laymen. Our Blessed Lord brot. his remedies
to all classes. To the centurion, who believed
and acted upon his belief, he said: "I have
seen no such faith no not in Israel. Here



is all the demonstration that the soldier needs that he is not excluded on account of his profession from ~~his appreciation~~ our Lord's recognition.

^{A book -} The life of a young British officer who ~~was~~ had been prior to conversion remarkable in the circle where he moved ~~for~~ ^{as a} ~~companion~~, as a handsome, manly, hearty, social favorite and who showed increased evidences of courage & manhood by becoming a Christian, was put into my hands by a faithful friend quite early in my military life. The influence of this young soldier's life ^{was the main thing which} brought me to take the stand I did in the Spring of 1857. When I came before the people & made a public profession of religion. He was killed in the Crimea while leading a charge of his Regiment.

The evidence of the practicability of Christianity in an Army is found ^{eminently} in the life of General Harlock. His biographer has not told the story very well - probably from want of spiritual sympathy with Harlock in his own heart. yet there is quite enough to show how consistently, how



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faithfully and with what abundant
success an Army officer may undertake &
act the part of a pronounced Christian man.

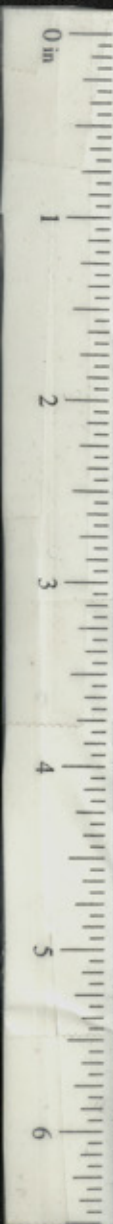
It will subserve my purpose to select
a few examples that have come under my
own observation in our Army both among
officers of rank & officers of a lesser grade
and also from among the enlisted men—
to make of them a practical demonstration
that, ~~unfavorable~~ ^{unlikely} as it may appear, the Army
of the United States, will bring in its sheaves
in the great Spiritual Harvest of the world.

At the first post to which I was sent after
graduating from the Military Academy there were
two Christian officers. One of them had been a long
time in the Army. It took ~~that~~ ^{one then} fourteen years
to become a Captain in the Ordnance Dept. This
officer had been for some years a Major.

Of all the men with whom I have had to
do both within & without the Army I think I have never

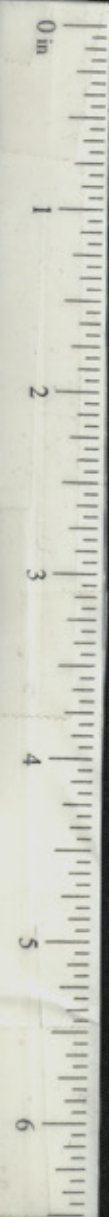


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Known as more thoroughly conscientious man.
He lived a long & useful life, was faithful to our
flag in the hour of her trial, though born & bred in
the south. And he has left to the army & to his
family the record of a Christian example. The
other officer was then a Lieutenant - had gained
brevets of distinction in the Mexican war. He was
a decided Christian in his family, in the church, in
his intercourse with us all. I then thought him
too particular in his habits & in his observances -
but now brighter & pleasant ^{now appears} in the record
of his years of unceasing, unostentatious
Christian living. He would blush & cry out
today against the bare mention of his name -
yet God knows him ^{standing then} with his own fidelity & charity
unquestioned & ~~un~~unremitting.

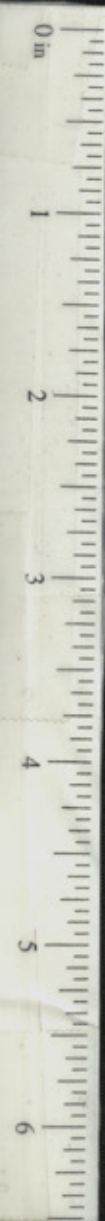
Again when my conversion took place in
Florida - an aged Colonel was there. His looks ^{were} already
whitening and he shewed other marks of
increasing years. He was pointed out to me
as a man, who had in younger days been very



wild. When I first met him I was much pleased
 that he noticed me with so much attention. He
 often drew me into ^{extended} conversation. One day he
 said: "You appear to be of an inquiring mind,
 & think you would like to read this." Then he
 handed me a list of ^{printed} questions by which
 one might test himself whether or not
 his Christianity had the true ring. I thanked
 him ^{feelingly} for it was just what I then wanted.

He often spoke in the prayer meetings at the
 Methodist Church & participated in other services.

Once I recall his fidelity in rebuking me.
 I had spoken ^{in a meeting} very boldly & very enthusiastically
 doubtless; and afterward in conversation with
 the Colonel made some remark that
 looked ^{to him} like boasting of my Bible acquirements.
 "But", my friend, you have no settled
 faith - no theology ~~yet~~. I have studied the
 Scriptures for years & how little I know yet."
 This Colonel's Christian life from the time I ^{came to} know him



in 1857, till his death since the war, was
 replete with good deeds. He loved to influence
 young people to enter promptly & thoroughly
 upon the Christian journey. I saw him tried
 in various ways. ^{always} He trembled in the presence
 of temptation; but he knew in whom he
 trusted; and was ever watchful & prayerful...

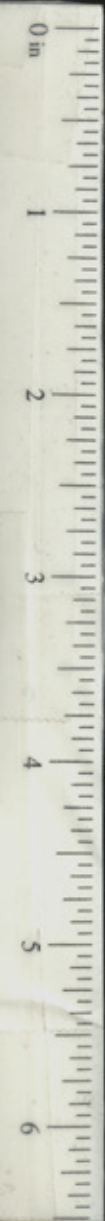
Christian officers & Christian ladies connected
 with the Army ^{in the army} had often spoken to me of General
Mansfield. I mean in days before he became a
General. He belonged I think to the Inspection
 department. He used to go from post to post
 on our frontiers and besides his professional
 duties hold religious services with the garrisons.

And it is a little remarkable that I never
 heard ^{course} this spoken of adversely. In 1861 when
 duty called me to Washington I found ^{that} General
 Mansfield ^{was} in command; and had great curiosity
 to see a man who had the reputation of
 being a Christian officer. It was not long

to the other side of the river. The river is very small and the water is very shallow.

before I met him. He was sitting at a dining table at Willard's. ~~that~~ He was a large, handsome full built man - with a high broad forehead, from which his hair ^{then} a little lengthier & purely white was brushed ^{well} back. I don't think one ever meets a pleasanter expression of face! And he could preserve that happy, gentle demeanor ^{in these war scenes!} amid the pulling & hauling & confusions compounded of the Capital where hosts & hosts of undisciplined masses of men crowded in & out - before anything like order ^{or any feeling of} ~~any~~ necessity for it could be drilled into the heads of mankind!

I saw this aged man the day of his death at Antietam. He led a desperate charge ^{while} with his pure white locks ^{were} waving like a flag of peace in the wind. His blood ^{soon after} dampened the ground as he fell from his horse having as Mr Lincoln said: ^{this} given to his country "the last full measure of ^{his} devotion". No man will ^{now} deny him the completion of that rest that already no confusion could disturb.



"The rest that remaineth for the people of God.

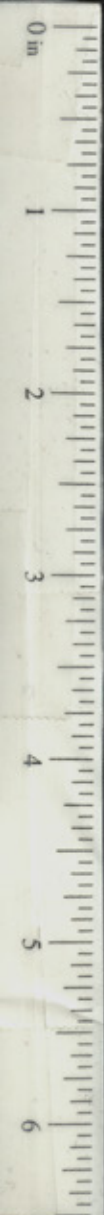
Among the junior officers in the service during the war I had quite a number attached to my staff at different times who were decided Christians. One converted in a military prison was ^{afterward} ~~severely~~ wounded by ~~the side~~ in battle and died after the war from the effect of this wound.

His likeness hangs in our parlor; his name is given to one of our children and the memory of his pure, ^{confident} courageous, Christian life is ever fresh & indelible.

Another is ^{now} preaching with great success the unsearchable riches of Christ. He stood firm in the army even amid controversy.

It was he that gave us the composition of: "How the Fort."

I knew a Sergeant before the war, (he writes me occasionally, now an aged civilian) who was the most faithful of Christians. He had not much learning - but he gathered the



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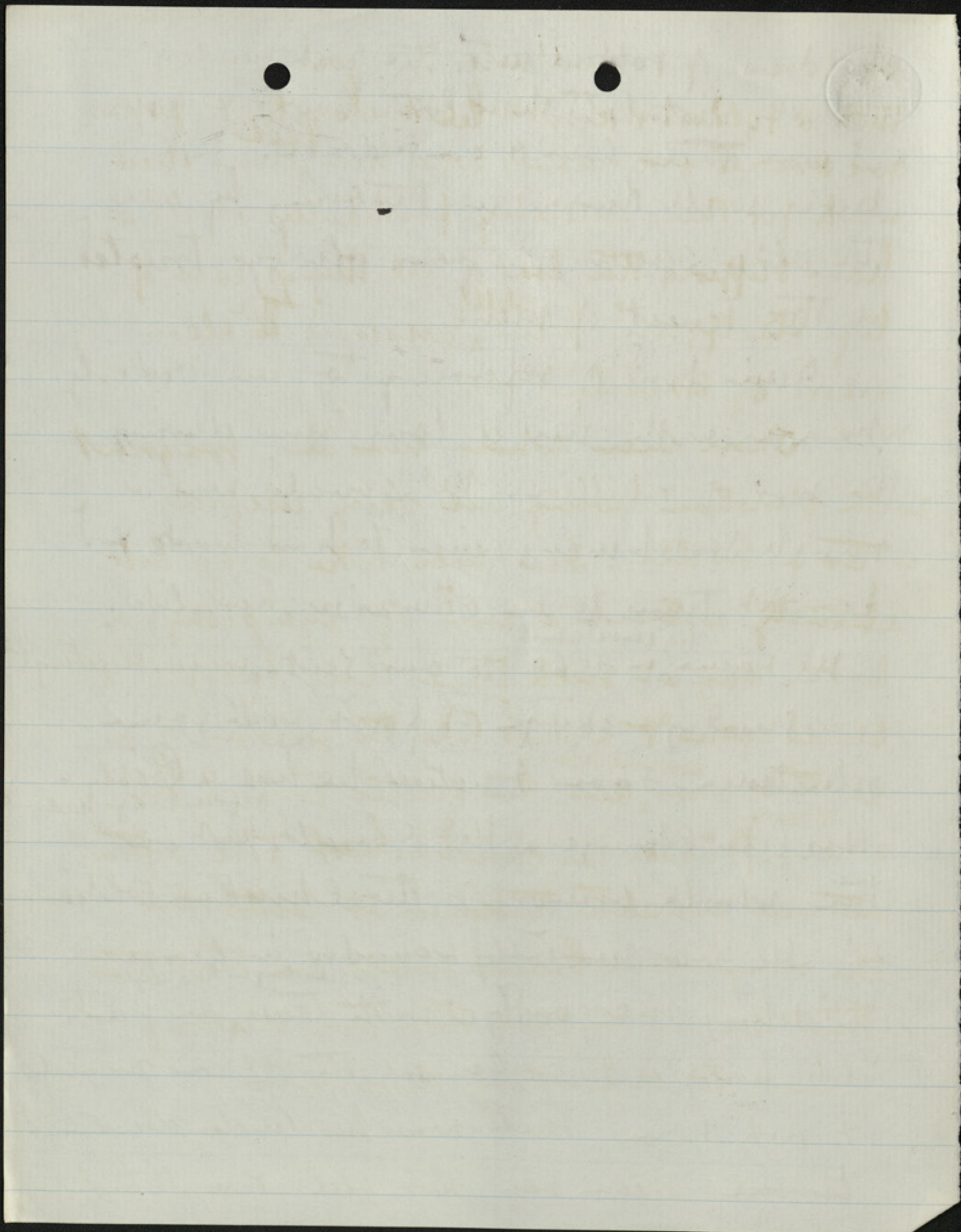
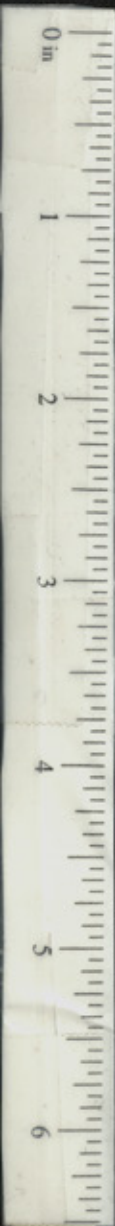
15.
children of soldiers into the post Sunday school; distributed their little books & papers and won their love & confidence.

He is well known in the Army by all the older officers and was always trusted as the trust of men.

I am fond of referring to an orderly ^{or messenger} who was with me a long time during the war of rebellion. Mr Donald was a rough Scotchman; given ^{when I first knew him} to hard words & fear at times to an otherwise hard life.

He came ^{by invitation} in 1862 to our Tent-prayer-meetings of a Sunday evening - at first with some reluctance. Soon I noticed he had a Bible - His life changed. Mr Donald ^{before long had} put on the whole armor of the Christian soldier.

He was mortally wounded in Georgia - Bidding me goodbye ^{stanching in his eyes} with tears, he said: "Oh, how glad I am General that I was wounded & not you! ^{such was his unselfishness!} Such was his tender devotion! ~~to me~~. Never say, nor feel, nor think



that a soldier cannot be a christian - for
 me Donald & thousands like him ^{have} done their
 work for their country faithfully & well -
 have suffered the loss of all things even of
 life itself; and have ^{still} preserved ~~the~~ ^a clean
 record of christian men.

Those men whose lives are fragrant
 with christian living are very useful
 after a battle. Few men like to go into
 eternity without a word of sympathy or
 love. One at such times does become a
 child again & would like the pressure of a
 mother's ^{around him;} arms, and the gentle tones of her
 voice ^{to hear}. It takes the christian heart to be softened
 into well modulated tenderness at death's door.
 The ~~strongest~~ ^{bravest} souls are those that
 trust God and impart their own cheering
 spirit to departing comrades.

As with other men at death's door

so with the soldier. The christian soldier

answers this great want.

