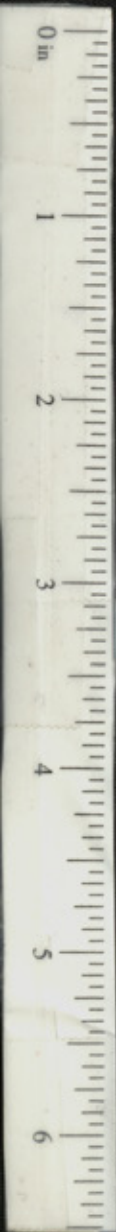


Article

No 54

Subject:
"Sunday Rest"



SUNDAY REST.

The writer of this paper has always been accustomed to regard SUNDAY REST and SABBATH REST as practically the same thing, for the original commandment, as our SAVIOUR has taught us, was given for the benefit of MAN, and therefore, to be interpreted with due consideration for the claims of mercy and the demands of justice.

It is a fair inference from this interpretation of the commandment of the ALLMIGHTY that, a rigid adherence to the letter rather, than to the spirit of the order was never the ultimate object of the infinite LAW-GIVER; but rather that the spirit of the commandment should uniformly obtain.

The spirit of the commandment may be expressed in a phrase like this: "Rest from labor, one day in seven." Just how, or just when the followers of the MASTER substituted the Sunday Rest for the Sabbath Rest, is nowhere, I think, recorded; but that it has been the practice everywhere where Christianity prevails, from the earliest times to apply the Fourth Commandment to the LORD'S DAY, is generally admitted.

Certainly that Christian who desires conscientiously to keep the Commandments of God, will have no guilt imputed to him for the infraction of the Fourth Commandment, if he faithfully observes the Sunday Rest.

That the HEAVENLY FATHER has commanded it, is of itself a powerful motive, but the keeping of this day as a day of rest from labor will be from its nature most beneficial to him Physically, morally, and spiritually, is a motive powerful enough in itself and one that even men who dispute the binding force of REVELATION, may well as philosophers adhere to.

Doubtless it is this course of reasoning which the makers of the laws of the United States have followed, for the United-States ^{Government} has always had laws or regulations of binding force in operation in every department of its administration, and all except two or three of the states that make up the United States have laws on their statute books, securing and protecting the Sunday Rest. The sanctions in early times were without doubt too rigid and became burdensome to the people. Little by little the enforcement of all Sunday-laws has been relaxed, till there is now almost no penalty, except the moral and spiritual loss, attached to their violation.

There are three places where Sunday Rest in the military service has been made prominent, to wit:

First. In the regulations of the Military Academy, where young men are employed by the government to fit themselves for the responsibilities and duties of army commissioned officers.

R.M.A.

W & E PARAGON LINEN

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NEW YORK, N. Y.
ESTABLISHED 1850
The Paragon Linen Company
has the honor to announce
that they have just received
a large stock of
the finest quality of
linen, and are now
offering it at
very low prices.
The stock consists of
all the latest styles
of linen, and is
guaranteed to be
of the highest quality.
The prices are
very low, and
the quality is
guaranteed to be
of the highest quality.
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CADET REGULATIONS regarding SUNDAY OBSERVANCE
of
SUNDAY.

125/ It is earnestly recommended to all officers of the Academy, and to all Cadets, diligently to attend Divine Service appointed on Sunday at the chapel. Officers will be excused by the Superintendent from such attendance upon their declaration in writing, that they cannot conscientiously attend. Cadets will in like manner be excused who make a similar declaration, with the written approval of their parents or guardians, such approval having been obtained by application through the Superintendent. But in all such cases the Superintendent may prescribe such regulations as may be deemed necessary and proper, to insure on the part of those excused a decent observance of the Lord's Day, during the hours of attendance at the chapel. Cadets will, at all other times during the day, conform to the study hours prescribed by the Superintendent.

126. Any Cadet who shall behave indecently or irreverently while attending Divine Service, or shall profane the Lord's day, shall be dismissed the service, or otherwise severely punished.

Second . In the Army Regulations, intended for the govern-

ment of officers, enlisted soldiers, and employees.

CADET REGULATIONS regarding STUDY OBSERVANCE
of
SUNDAY.

135. It is earnestly recommended to all officers of the Academy, and to all Cadets, diligently to attend Divine Service as appointed on Sunday at the chapel. Officers will be excused by the Superintendent from such attendance upon their decision in writing, but they cannot consistently attend. Cadets will in like manner be excused upon a similar decision, which will be subject to the approval of their commanding officers, such approval having been obtained by application through the Superintendent. But in all such cases the Superintendent may prescribe such regulations as may be deemed necessary and proper, to insure on the part of those excused a decent observance of the Lord's Day, during the hours of attendance at the chapel. Cadets will, at all other times during the day, conform to the study hours prescribed by the Superintendent.

136. Any Cadet who shall behave indelicately or irreverently by while attending Divine Service, or shall profane the Lord's day, shall be dismissed the service, or otherwise severely punished.

Army Regulations. *articles of War.*

Art. 52. It is earnestly recommended to all officers and soldiers diligently to attend divine service. Any officer who behaves indecently or irreverently at any place of divine worship shall be brought before a general court-martial, there to be publicly and severely reprimanded by the president thereof. Any soldier who so offends shall, for his first offense, forfeit one-sixth of a dollar; for each further offense he shall forfeit a like sum, and shall be confined twenty-four hours. The money so forfeited shall be deducted from his next pay, and shall be applied, by the captain or senior officer of his troop, battery, or company, to the use of the sick soldiers of the same.

Thid. In the various orders issued from time to time by the president, the Secretary of War, and the Commanders of Armies and Geographical Divisions. *for example Nov 12. 87*

These three places which are indeed the sources of discipline and instruction and government, belong to the army proper, the Navy has correspondent regulations for its cadets and for its naval establishment.

Navy Regulations.

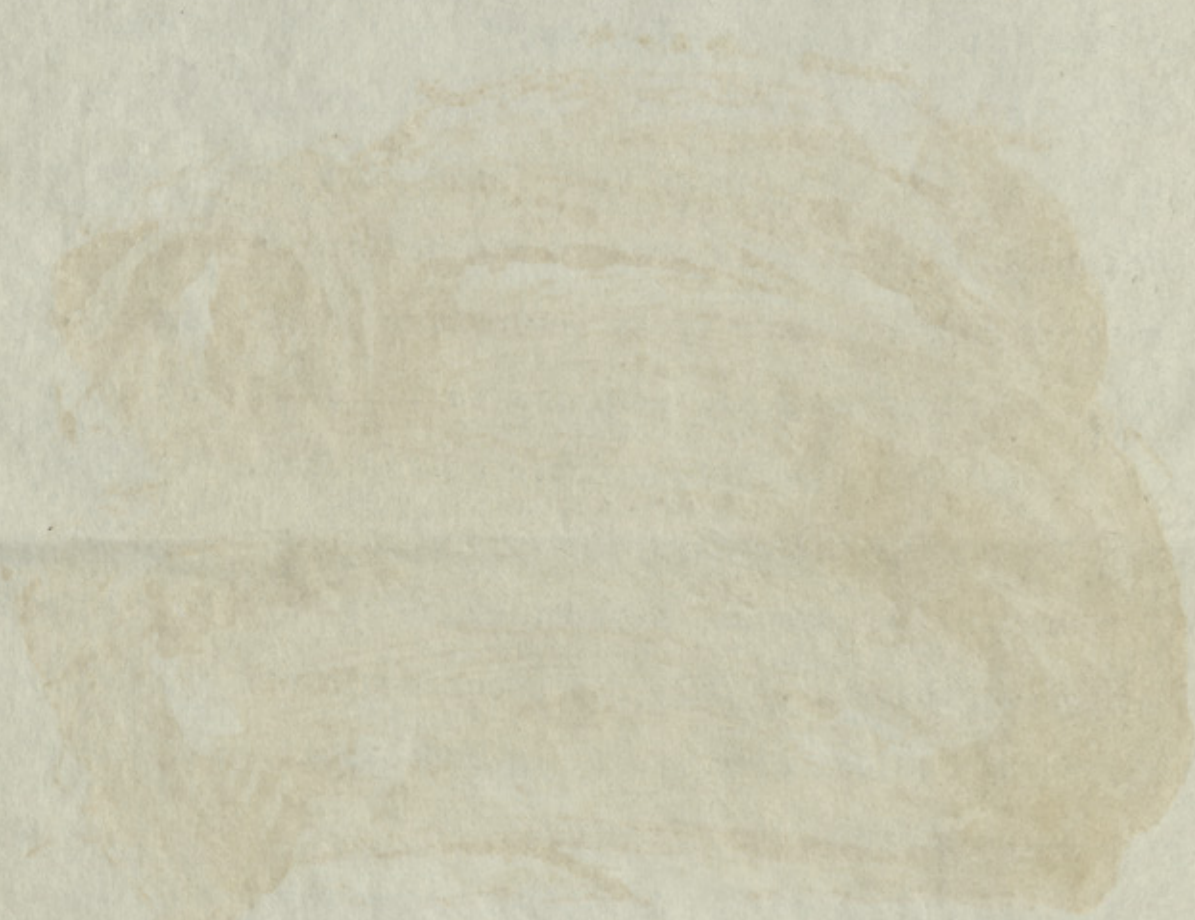
843. Sunday must be observed on board all vessels of the Navy, and at all stations and navy yards, in an orderly manner, by officers and men. All labor or duty will be reduced ^d to the measure of strict necessity. The religious tendencies of officers and men are to be encouraged, and suitable times and places will be assigned for Divine worship.

Without going too much into detail, we may call up the practical results.

At West Point the Sunday Rest has always been carefully observed. The Sunday morning inspection was thought to be an exception, but the intention of that inspection was to see that each cadet was properly dressed and had his room and equipments in perfect order at an early hour of the morning. The fatigue of the formal military inspection of the battalion was relieved by some appropriate music by the bands. The evening Sunday parade of the cadets simply brought them together for a few minutes in undress uniform, as a test of their presence and good behaviour. Only the necessary guard and police was required and seldom occurred to an individual on an average oftener than once in two months.

In the army at large at all the garrisons throughout the United States in time of peace, the result of the law ~~generally~~ ~~enacts~~ and regulations has been to stop all work in the Quartermaster's, Commissary and Ordnance Departments, involving the

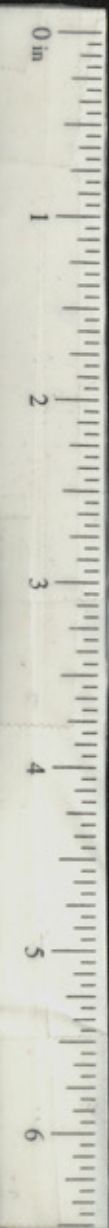
M. S. B. BLINSON FINE



the labor of officers, enlisted men, employees, or contractors excepting always, the necessary guard and police of the post.

With reference to Sunday morning inspections and the evening parades the same customs prevailed as at West Point, but both at West Point and in the army at large President BENJAMIN HARRISON forbade the Sunday exercises, inspections, parades and drills, in fact the drill could not have become customary; it was only a few officers who desired to make an exhibition to abundant sightseers, crowding their garrisons near sun-down, for entertainment, and who occasionally lengthened their parades into show-drills. Again, at West Point the cadets were required to attend divine service, and it has been, and is customary for the four companies to march to the chapel, and attend the morning service; a part have been allowed to go to church elsewhere at the request of parents and guardians. Saturday evening the cadet habitually took for friendly visiting, writing letters home, or reading, or simple rest. Sunday evening after call to quarters a part of the cadets have always recommenced their studies, preparatory to the monday morning lesson, but very many have taken pains to abstain from study on Sunday evenings, - sometimes using recreation hours to forestall the necessity of any study on the rest-day.

In the army at large the habit of attending divine service recommended rather than enjoined by the Army Regulations



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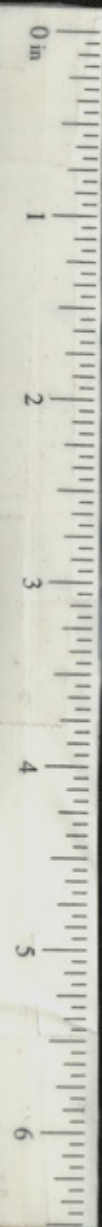
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has varied among army people as in other communities in our republic, at some posts there are regular services; I have noticed that the Roman Catholics have as a general rule been ~~more~~ careful to attend divine service than others, wherever from the circumstances that privilege could be accorded them.

The social feature more or less affects public worship in the army, the enlisted men seldom gather largely with the officers and their families, but an able clergyman at any frontier post distant from cities will usually draw together large numbers; near the cities the privilege of church-going are very little restricted. In connection with the navy my experience has been very limited, but I know that similar laws, regulations ~~and~~ and customs prevail. The government affords to its naval officers and men the Sunday Rest, requiring only a small portion to perform such functions as are necessary for a proper guard and a proper police.

Before closing these glimpses into the theory and practice of the army and navy it may be well to remind ourselves that under the operations of active warfare, necessity often prevented the Sunday Rest, it was, however, a soldier's proverb, that the attacking force on Sunday would be defeated. Greater and greater carelessness had crept in till probably in the fall of 1862 there was a wide-spread disregard of the Lord's Day in all the armies, bivouacking, marching or actively engaged.



THE FIRST PART OF THE
DOCUMENT IS A LETTER
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS TO THE
CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF THE
STATISTICS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE.

THE SECOND PART OF THE
DOCUMENT IS A LETTER
FROM THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU
OF THE STATISTICS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO THE
DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF THE
CENSUS.

THE THIRD PART OF THE
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COMMERCE.

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THE SIXTH PART OF THE
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THE SEVENTH PART OF THE
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COMMERCE.

THE EIGHTH PART OF THE
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FROM THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU
OF THE STATISTICS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO THE
DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF THE
CENSUS.

- 6 -

It was at this time of need that our good President reminded us of our history and of our duty in relation to Sunday Rest and proper observance of the day.

GENERAL ORDER RESPECTING THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH
DAY IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.

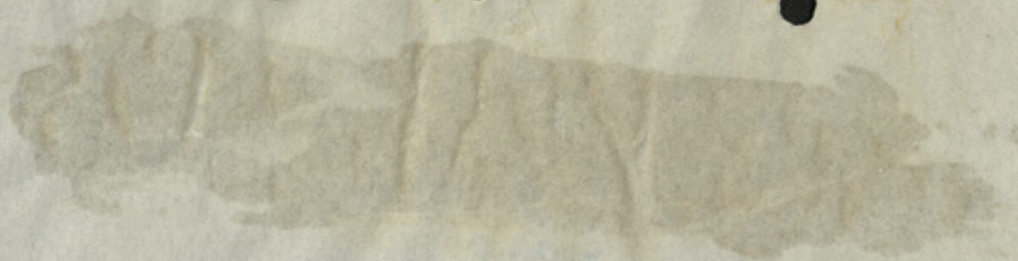
EXECUTIVE MANSION,

Washington, November 15, 1862.

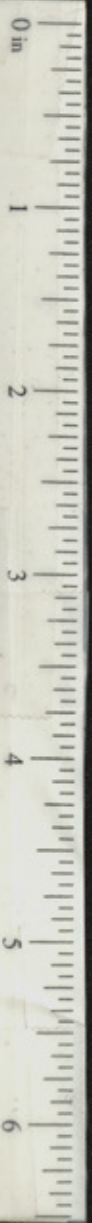
The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, desires and enjoins the orderly observance of the Sabbath by the officers and men in the military and naval service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiment of a Christian people, and a due regard for the Divine will, demand that Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity.

The discipline and character of the national forces should not suffer, nor the cause they defend be imperiled, by the profanation of the day or name of the Most High. "At this time of public distress"—adopting the words of Washington in 1776—"men may find enough to do in the service of God and their country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality." The first General Order issued by the Father of his Country after the Declaration of Independence, indicates the spirit in which our institutions were founded and should ever be defended: "*The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.*"

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.



THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JANUARY 1, 1900



GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 50.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, June 12, 1889.

The following order of the President is published for the information and guidance of the Army, viz:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, June 7, 1889.

In November, 1862, President Lincoln quoted the words of Washington to sustain his own views, and announced in a general order that—

"The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, desires and enjoins the orderly observance of the Sabbath by the officers and men in the military and naval service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiment of a Christian people, and a due regard for the Divine will demand that Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity."

The truth so concisely stated cannot be too faithfully regarded, and the pressure to ignore it is far less now than in the midst of war. To recall the kindly and considerate spirit of the orders issued by these great men in the most trying times of our history, and to promote contentment and efficiency, the President directs that Sunday morning inspection will be merely of the dress and general appearance, without arms; and the more complete inspection under arms, with all men present, as required in par. 950, A. R., 1889, will take place on Saturday.

BENJ. HARRISON.

By the President:

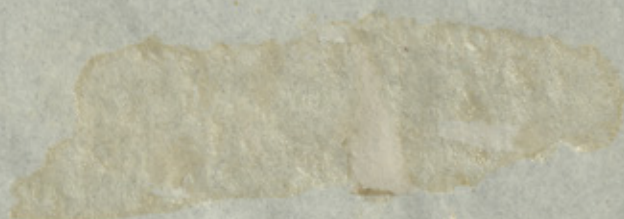
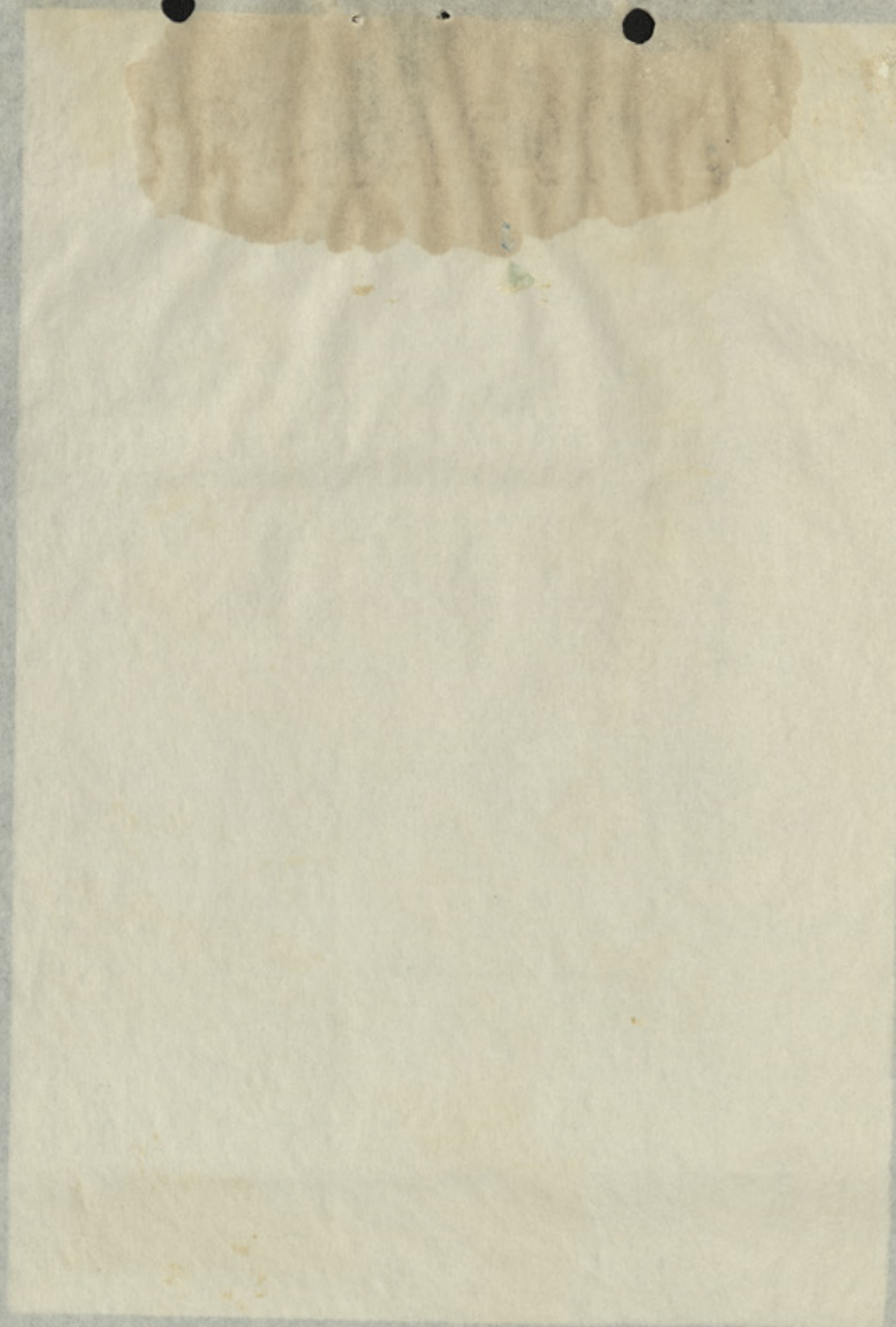
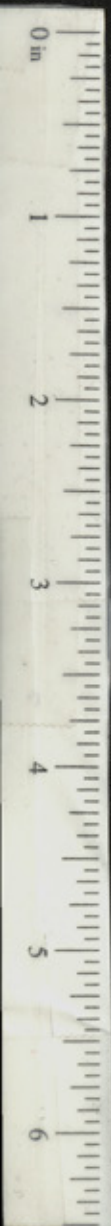
REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL SCHOFIELD:

J. C. KELTON,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.



Long before these instructions, General George B. Mc. Clellan, at the time Commander in Chief had issued two excellent orders, practically enforcing the same noble lessons. The first was as follows:-

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

Washington, D.C., September 7, 1861.

General Order.

The Major General commanding desires and requests that in future there may be a more perfect respect for the Sabbath on the part of his command. We are fighting in a holy cause, and should endeavor to deserve the benign favor of the Creator. Unless in case of attack by the enemy, or some other extreme military necessity, it is commended to commanding officers that all the work shall be suspended on the Sabbath; that no unnecessary movements shall be made on that day; that the men shall as far as possible be permitted to rest from their labors; that they shall divine service after the customary morning inspection, and that officers and men alike use their influence to insure the utmost decorum required on that day. The General commanding regards this as no idle form. One day's rest is necessary for man and animals. More than this the observance of the holy day of the God of mercy and of battles is our sacred duty.

GEORGE B. McCLELLAN,
Major General, Commanding.

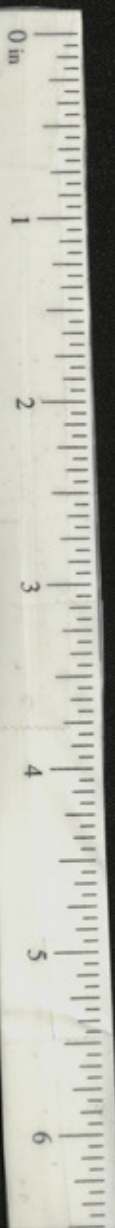
Official:

S. WILLIAMS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

The second is in substance to wit:-

November 27th, 1861.

General McClellan issued orders from the head-quarters of the army of the Potomac, At Washington, D.C., directing the Sunday morning services to be commenced at eleven o'clock, and all officers and soldiers off duty, to attend divine service. The orders give the freedom of camps, quarters, and hospitals to chaplains, who are also released from attending reviews and inspections.



It has been my privilege to correspond directly and indirectly with the several departments at Washington. An more thoroughly informed pen in my mind, has already sketched the fact of good Sunday observance in the immense Post Office Department, which extends its sway in postal matters from Washington to the extremities of the Republic. As there we find only the necessary operation, so is it in the entire Department of the Interior, which includes the huge Pension Office, the vast Patent Office, the Indian Bureau, and other divisions.

The doors of their offices are not only closed to the public, but substantially to themselves. In the War Department, which includes the Adjutant General's, the Judge Advocate's, the Engineer's, the Ordnance, Medical, Pay and other Bureaus, with all their subdivisions, the Sunday Rest is carefully observed. A small detail of messengers and watchmen perform the duties that are essential to the receipt and transmission of



of dispatches and to guards.

The same principles carefully carried out, leaving every employee to worship according to his own conscience are attributable to every department of the government, both military and civil. Nothing but an evident necessity and a compelling mercy puts constraint upon any official or workman whom the government employs.

I have met with a few exceptions but these have been so rare, as to make them remarkable.

The Government of the United States, through its executive departments, theoretically and practically demands the SUNDAY REST.

Governor's Island, August 31st 1893.

Major General,
U.S. Army.

Sunday Rest
2^d Copy

J. B. Howard
Major Genl.
U.S.A.