

THE DYING SOLDIER.

A pious soldier mortally wounded in one of the great battles of the Peninsula war, was carried by two or three attached comrades to the rear of the scene of action. They laid him down under a tree, unwilling to leave him in such a condition of agony and peril, lingered beside him to see if there was no act of kindness which they could do. His speech seemed much affected; so that he was unable to answer intelligibly to their inquiries, but he made them understand by signs that he did not wish them to remain with him to the neglect of their post of duty in the battle. Reluctantly they left him and returned. A little while after, an officer who had been hastily summoned from a distance to join the action rode past. He pulled up on seeing a fellow countryman alone and bleeding to death, and asked if there was anything he could do for him. The soldier murmured something in the negative, and motioned to him also to go forward. "My poor fellow," said the officer kindly, "if you are so far gone as to be beyond the reach of help yourself, perhaps I could do something for your friends at home; is there no message I could carry for you to your wife and children?" At the mention of his family a flash of consciousness seemed to return to the dying man. He said distinctly: "Yes; knapsack—book."

The officer dismounted and opened the knapsack beside him. He searched for a book in it, and soon drew out a Bible. The soldier continued; "Read John xiv. 27." The hand which held it was little accustomed to turn over the sacred pages, and slowly, and not without difficulty, the verse was found and read. A radiant and heavenly smile lighted up the poor man's features as he listened. "There! There!" he exclaimed, in thrilling and triumphant tones, "it is all I want. I have peace. I am going home; my Savior is waiting to receive me." The officer gazed on him a moment in speechless astonishment, and then remembering that he ought to have been at his post before now, threw the bible into the knapsack, sprang into his saddle and was gone.

Within an hour afterward that same officer was carried by his men on a rude litter out of the field of battle. He too was mortally wounded, and had not spoken until they approached the tree where the lifeless remains of the soldier were now stretched on the field. The spot too vividly recalled the circumstances which had taken place there so short a time before. Passing his hand over his forehead, he was heard to say in tones of heartfelt anguish: "I have no Bible. I have no peace, there is no Savior waiting to receive me." Both these men were exposed to the power of the sword; both as to their mortal life fell victims to it; yet the heir of the promise in the hour of his lovely death, experienced the "I will" of deliverance—his soul was redeemed from the power of his sword.

An Incident in Valandingham's District.

An amusing incident happened at a Fourth of July celebration at a town in Valandingham's district in Ohio. The conservatives had the control, and selected orators and officers, of their same stripe. It happened that Judge Smith of Pettis county, Mo., was there on a visit, and it being known that he was a slave holder and a good speaker, the conservatives gathered around him and insisted on him making a speech. He consented and took the stand. He commenced by saying that "he belonged to a slave State and he was himself a slave owner; but loved the Union more than slavery; that there were in Missouri a class of patriots who were for the Union as long as it protected slavery, and such men are uniformly loud in denunciation of abolitionists and secessionists, always putting abolitionists first, and declaring that they should be hung on the same tree. That whenever he heard a man talk in that way he put him down as a sneaking traitor." When the speaker got thus far, the audience broke in on him with such loud cheers that for a long time the speaker could not proceed. The officers of the celebration was as you may suppose, pale with amazement and anger; but the great heart of the people was unmovable. The oration and previous speaking had been of the conservative, rose water kind without eliciting any manifestation of applause; but Judge Smith carried the sympathy and enthusiasm of the people with him. Every one supposed that being a slave holder, he

would of course be in sympathy with the rebels; but he soon undeceived them.—Judge Smith is one of the numerous class of slave holders in Missouri who are for the Union first, and believing slavery to be the cause of the present rebellion, are in favor of accepting the liberal offer of the President and removing the cause.

Plenty.

In the midst of the gloom of our national troubles, a kind Providence has vouchsafed to us an abundance of all the necessities of life. From all the loyal States comes news of the most abundant crops. The wheat crop has been safely harvested, and was never better, take the country through. Corn is promising finely; and of fruits there was never a better prospect. Prices are reasonable—not too low for the producer, nor too high for the consumer. What great reason we have for thankfulness in all this. While those who brought this war upon the country for the purpose of overthrowing and destroying the Government are compelled to pay the most exorbitant prices for the actual necessities of life, and in many cases are suffering from want of food, while their country is desolated and the business of their towns and cities destroyed, we, who are laboring and fighting for the maintenance of our Government, are blessed with the greatest abundance of everything, our fields are richly laden with bounteous crops, and the business of our towns and cities scarcely feels, as yet, any inconvenience from the war. Is there not something more than accident in all this? Is not the same beneficent hand that strengthened and guided the patriot fathers in the establishment of this Government now bestowing its blessings on those who are striving to maintain it?

"NEW IRONSIDES."—This vessel, the keel of which was laid in Philadelphia last winter, has left Philadelphia in command of Captain Thos. Turner. She is probably the finest ironclad afloat—carries five hundred men, and mounts 200-pound Parrot guns, capable of throwing solid shot and shell a distance of six miles. No persons were allowed to visit the vessel previous to her departure, and it is not deemed advisable to make public the various particulars of her construction and the manner in which her guns and machinery operate. She sailed under sealed orders on a secret mission.

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