

THAT LETTER FROM HOME.

The question as to which is the mightier, the pen or the sword, has been the subject of many debates. In these days one has an opportunity of observing the result of the work of both. The writer, however, is particularly concerned with the influence for good that can be maintained by the pens of those at home in Canada while their boys, husbands or loved ones are far away at the various training camps in England, or at the front in France.

While this great struggle of nations is in progress, there is also a struggle of ideals, moulding of character or moral issue that we all must meet individually—the struggle of wrong against right, of evil against good, of self indulgence against moral control, of lust against chastity and honor. In army life the soldier finds himself in a sphere of temptation where these moral issues are sharply contested, and while he is engaged in the fight of nations for freedom, justice and national honor, the soldier is liable to be taken captive by the enemy of his soul, the loss of which, as the scripture says, could not be replaced by gaining this world. In this moral conflict, the men at the front or in training are at a disadvantage by being far removed from the helpful influence of home and home companions, thus finding himself in a new plane of living where he must choose new associates. It is in this connection that the writer wishes to emphasize the importance of keeping the home influence alive by correspondence. To be convinced of this one needs only to be near the line of expectant faces when the bugle sounds that the mail has arrived, see the boys line up, the happy expressions of those whose names are called in marked contrast to the disappointed looks of those who go away without receiving a card or letter to let them know that they are not forgotten at home.

In talking to a young man recently his remarks were somewhat like this: "I tell you I had a great struggle to keep from going wrong when on that holiday, but I am thankful that I did not yield to the temptation. You know I have not heard from home since I came across and I was feeling rather discouraged and just as though they did not care and in that mood I felt just like giving in for a time. Some days later the same young man came along, his face wore a happy expression and his whole being was buoyant as he exclaimed, 'I have a letter from home.'"

This young man was meeting a crisis in his life which is common to the army, and while he did not fail, he very narrowly missed accepting the counterfeit that the enemy of his soul had to offer, and had he yielded it meant the dwarfing of his own life and untold misery and unhappiness to others; at this critical time, how that letter from mother, wife, sister or friend would have helped and perhaps been the salvation of one who was not so strong as the case mentioned.

Mother, keep yourself with your boy by writing; wife, maintain your place of helpfulness and affection in the heart of your husband by writing; sister, encourage and enter into the spirit of your brother's work by writing; lovers, keep that ideal of true

love before your soldier friend that inspires him to his best effort by writing; and while we help one another we do well to remember that our main help comes by obeying Him whom the poet describes as follows:

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journey run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

PRIVATE AT WITLEY CAMP.

NO NEED OF CHOKING.

He was one of those sharp laymen, always ready with a question which he hoped would prove a poser. So when the new minister came to dine, he thought to stump him by asking:

"Don't you come across a good many things in the Bible that you don't understand, like the problem of Cain's wife, for instance?"

"Oh, yes, of course," acknowledged the clergyman.

"Well, what do you do about it?"

"I simply do just as I would while eating a nice fresh herring. When I come to the bone I quietly lay it to one side, and go on enjoying the meal, letting any idiot that insists on choking himself with the bone in his herring do so."—Ex.

NOTICE.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Session of the "Alliance of the Reformed Baptist Church of Canada" will convene at Beulah Camp Ground on Wednesday, June 27th, 1917, at 10.30 a. m.

The first business session will take place in the afternoon at 2 o'clock.

All the pastors, as well as two delegates from each church, as also one delegate from each missionary society, are expected to be present. Beloved, let us have a good delegation **this year**.

Please make an effort to come.

THE SECRETARY.

SINGING.

The scripture motive and method of singing is stated in Ephesians 5:19. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Today we have to endure a great deal at the hands of the singers. How often is worship disturbed and destroyed by the choir. We agree with an exchange in which appears the following:

Would that some Wesley could interpose to save our Sunday School songs from the trend toward jingle tunes. We read from John Wesley's Journal, Sunday, April 8, 1781: "The service was at the usual hour. I came just in time to put a stop to a bad custom which was creeping in here—a few men who had fine voices sang a psalm which no one knew in a tune fit for an opera, wherein three, four, or five persons sing different words at the same time. What an insult upon common sense! What a burlesque upon public worship! No custom can excuse such a mixture of profaneness and absurdity."—Christian Witness.

I'M DREAMING OF JESUS.

Dr. C. E. Mason.

I'm dreaming of Jesus, the best friend I know,
Who in pity and infinite love,
Stooped down from His glory to this world of woe,
To raise us to glory above.

He saw the downfall, and condition of man,
And our woes reached His heavenly mind;
In mercy accepted God's wonderful plan,
To save the lost race of mankind.

He would not the wealth of this world to enjoy,
For its offers He sternly refused;
Its pleasures, enjoyments was earthly alloy,
His heavenly mind would not choose.

His wonderful life, in the Bible I trace,
And His loved form in visions I see;
His dear words, and His looks overflowing with grace,
Suffices for you and for me.

O wonderful offer, so free from above!
There is nothing we now can compare
To the infinite goodness of God in His love,
Our sins and our burdens to bear.

Not long since I dreamed He was with us down here,
But His person no one did behold;
And I felt His loved presence and knew He was near,
Much plainer than if I'd been told.

It seemed He was with us around and abroad,
When His power His glory revealed!
I saw one in bed lying sick, but the Lord
Just looked at him and he was healed.

O such revelation that comes from above!
Holds the being in sacred control;
And thus with its promptings and blessings in love,
It teaches and speaks to the soul.

O wonderful love, in communion with Him!
He bestows in my visions and dreams;
When I feel He is filling my soul to the brim
With joy that unspeakably beams.

Such heavenly dreams are a secret of grace;
And I would that this secret you knew;
That this wonderful blessing which hal-
lowed my days,
Would too be extended to you.
Springfield, N. S.

"Organized labor maintains that 'Safety First' means being sober first, and good safe work and intoxicating liquor are always enemies."

"Temptations are the crises which test the strength of one's character. Whether we stand or fall at these crises depends largely on what we are before the testing comes."