

THE PRESENT POSITION

OF

THE SALVATION ARMY.

LONDON:

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON, E.C.

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In order to gain an adequate idea of the rapid growth and extraordinary increase of this movement, it is necessary to contrast its present Field State with that of ten years ago.

	June, 1878.	June, 1888.
The Army had Corps or Central Stations - - - - -	50	2,413
The Army had Officers, or men and women entirely employed in Mission work - - - - -	88	6,391

The Army is now at work in thirty-one different countries and colonies throughout the world. In these countries there are now 2,413 Corps or Societies, holding 44,320 services every week, or at the rate of 2,300,000 per annum.

These services are carried on by 6,391 Officers supported and maintained for the purpose.

No less than 106 of the Army's Soldiers offered themselves to become Officers in the week ending 19th May, so that there is every prospect of an unlimited supply of young men and women willing to leave home, situations, and worldly prospects, to devote their lives to the Salvation of others.

During the month of May, no less than 30 Salvationists suffered, or were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, for no other reason than that they persisted in warning and teaching the people in Christ's name in the public thoroughfares of this "Christian" land, while scores of thousands of our Officers and Soldiers are ready to suffer imprisonment or trouble of any description rather than abandon their efforts for the Salvation of the people.

We have more than 6,000 Bandsmen who, every Sunday, march on an average, not less than twelve miles each—many of them carry heavy musical instruments in this service—or a total of (say) 72,000 miles, without the hope of any earthly reward for their labour.

In the work of house-to-house visitation, the Army has this year made more progress than ever, over 3,000,000 houses being visited per annum.

Number of Cadets training in Great Britain, 452.

In **France and Switzerland**, where, for some seven years, we have struggled against the combined forces of indifference, superstition, and infidelity, God has enabled us to raise up no less than 301 Officers, many of whom were once stubborn opposers of our work, but who now gladly endure poverty and ill-usage for the Saviour's sake.

In these countries, in 86 places services are carried on. From the crowded thoroughfares of Paris, Marseilles, Lyons, St. Etienne, and Bordeaux, to the tiniest hamlets amongst the mountains of France and Switzerland, our Officers go daily, selling their *War Crys* and arousing the careless to thought about their souls.

More than 27 of the Soldiers of one Swiss Corps recently offered themselves to become Officers; and, in spite of all that ruffianism and official opposition can do, we shall undoubtedly be able to raise up forces that will help to publish Salvation to the whole world.

In **Sweden**, where at first, and even up to recent date, in some towns every effort was made to suppress our meetings, we have now 38 Corps with crowded congregations. There are 117 Officers and 31 Cadets in training at the great Headquarters erected in Stockholm last year at a cost of some £7,000.

In **Norway**, where the first Hall built for us by a builder until then unknown to the Army was opened last January, we have already 4 congregations. A large central Hall is in course of erection at a cost of £5,000, and about 2,000 persons having sought Salvation in the past five months in Christiania, the chief city of Norway, there can be no doubt of the great future before us in this country.

In **Denmark** we have had an equally marvellous success. At the end of our first year we find ourselves with 3 Corps under Officers and with 12 Cadets in training, and a large central Hall that will hold 700 persons.

In **Holland** we have also been at work only one year. We have 10 Corps under 38 Officers and Cadets, with crowded congregations, who more than meet all the expenses connected with the War.

In **Germany** we have met with a more resolute official opposition than in any other country. Decrees against our meetings, enforced without any sparing of effort by the police, have, however, utterly failed to prevent our gathering congregations and raising up Corps of Soldiers who are determined to persevere in the fight against any odds.

In **Kiel**, a large city of North Prussia, where a Hall has been built for our use, we have just succeeded in gathering our fifth regular congregation, and, if difficulties are still great, thank God we have Officers ready to endure them, willing to live upon 3/6 per week, and so to fight the battle out.

In the **United States and Canada**, we have now lines of Corps stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Services are regularly held in 781 places, by 1,586 Officers, mostly raised up in these countries during the last eight years.

In **Jamaica**, where services were commenced last December, we have now six congregations, and many thousands assemble every Sunday at the mass meetings held out of doors for want of any halls large enough to contain the crowds who wish to listen. We have a *War Cry*, of which more than 5,000 copies are sold weekly, being the largest circulation of any newspaper in the island.

So great is the amount of immorality prevailing amongst

the population, and so manifest already has the Army's power to counteract it become, that the Governor has granted our Colonel a special license to marry the people.

In **India**, where the Army has only been at work six years, we have already 110 European and 105 native Officers, a larger number than are employed by any except one of the older missionary organisations. Our Officers are in many cases already able to speak the language of the people amongst whom they live, and by adopting native costumes, living on native lines, and showing a spirit of devoted love to the very poorest, they have won the esteem and commendation even of heathen native Editors.

The recent death by cholera of Colonel Weerisooriye, a Singhalese who was second in command in the country, and the illness and death of others, have created sad gaps in our ranks; but our people are responding so heartily to the appeal for 70 more Officers made in connection with the recent marriage of Commissioner Tucker to Miss Emma Booth, that if funds are provided we shall be able to send another ship-load of Officers out next September, raising our total in the Peninsula and Ceylon to 285.

In **Australasia**, we have now 648 Officers, all but about 25 of them raised up in the colonies during the last seven years. They carry on services in no less than 564 localities, selling over 80,000 copies weekly of the *War Cry* published, and using some 200 horses to reach the outlying population to whom they regularly minister.

Amongst the Australian aborigines and the Chinese of the cities we have already formed Corps; the Chinese having themselves contributed £20 towards the work during the month of May.

Officers have also been sent to commence operations amongst the Maoris, and we trust ere these native races have entirely disappeared to win many of them as trophies for our King.

At the **Cape of Good Hope** we have during the last five years, established 64 Corps, under 178 Officers, most of whom have been raised up from amongst the converts. The remotest Boer hamlets in the Cape Colony, the Transvaal, and the Orange Free State have been reached by means of

waggon and horsemen, and amongst the poor natives living near the towns separate Corps have also been formed.

At the **Diamond Fields**, and the Gold Fields, we have got Corps established, and in the prisons to which our Officers are admitted, many have sought Salvation—kneeling at the drumhead in the presence of their fellow-convicts.

In **Saint Helena**, we have also a Corps maintaining Officers, notwithstanding the great poverty of most of the people.

Besides being thus a vast **Home and Foreign Missionary Society**, which raises up everywhere a self-supporting, energetic, and ever-advancing organisation from amongst the people who have been Christless hitherto, the Army might also well claim to be the largest Colportage Society ever formed.

More than 600,000 illustrated newspapers, containing absolutely nothing but matter directly connected with the salvation of souls, are produced weekly in twelve languages, in the thirty-one countries where the Army now labours—English, Welsh, French, German, Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Italian, Gujarati, Tamil, Singhalese—and these newspapers are sold by voluntary labourers, not only in our halls and in the streets, but from door to door amongst the poorest of the people, and in the very public houses where the work of ruin is going on!

Think of thirty millions of such sales effected each year by the prayerful and determined efforts of men and women who feel that they owe their all to the Saviour, and do the work simply as a means of recommending Him to others!

Then again the Salvation Army is a vast Temperance agency. So notorious is the total abstinence of all who belong to us, that the mere appearance of our uniform is a continual exhortation to all who see it, to leave off the drink.

Moreover, by insisting upon the abandonment of tobacco on the part of every Bandsman and Local Official, as well as by everyone employed as an Officer, the Army is exercising a great influence in the direction of self-denial.

The **Rescue Work** carried on by the Army in the Homes in this country, Australia and Canada, and the Cape, has already become a blessed success. There are 300 girls constantly in these Homes, and we know of more

than 1,000 who have become respectable members of society, and happy soldiers of Jesus Christ, through this instrumentality.

The **Homes for Discharged Prisoners**, established in Australia, are so well known to be of value to the country, that they receive grants from the Parliaments. Hundreds of ex-convicts pass through them annually.

The recently-established Food and Shelter Home at Limehouse has, since its establishment, been utilized by 165,000 persons as follows:—

¼d. Meals	...	...	...	8,800
½d. "	...	...	...	56,800
1d. "	...	...	...	93,600
Supper, Bed, and Breakfast	...	...	...	9,200

Total, 168,400

many of whom would have had to go hungry and sleep out of doors but for its farthing, halfpenny, and penny meals and its penny couches.

In the **Slums of London**, we have now 46 Officers, who live and labour amongst the very poorest of the poor, and who have been able to rejoice over several hundreds of these turning to God and finding joy in Him amidst the extreme hardships of their daily lot.

But far beyond any of our tabulated efforts, we believe, are the continual labours carried on at home, in the workshops, and markets, and streets, by the thousands of our people, who delight, by their dress, by their conduct and conversation, to hold up before others daily the standard of the Cross. The Army is what it calls itself—a body of Soldiers of Salvation, who fight wherever they are for the one King—and who are far more by their personal, than even by their collective efforts, overturning the kingdom of the devil, and advancing the interests of their Saviour.

Financially, the Army is, we think, as remarkable as in any other respect. Wherever it goes it teaches the people to support the services as much as possible themselves. Throughout the world, it turns every year not less than £700,000 that would have been spent, but for its efforts, in drink or other sinful indulgence, into the support

of its operations, thus hiring or building the very largest Halls to be seen in most of the places in which it is at work.

And all this vast organization, with its 44,320 services every week, is carried on with a fund of only £35,000 per annum at Headquarters, of which £5,500 is also contributed by our English congregations.

If it be true, as we think, all must admit that this vast success attained already, during the last ten years, is without parallel in the recent history of Mission work amongst the poor. Surely all friends of Mission effort should feel an especial interest in the Army; should strive to make themselves more fully acquainted with all the facts connected with it; and should, when they have seen what it is doing for themselves, help it forward in the proportion in which it deserves their help.

Of nothing can there be a greater certainty than that the Army is the means of raising up from the dunghill men and women who become, by God's grace, great founders of Missions.

Of twelve Majors now superintending and organising the Army's work in Australia, only five were converted men ten years ago; one was the leader of the Skeleton Army formed to oppose us, and another was a drunken prodigal.

Yet all these are now honoured leaders of thousands of others in religious efforts, extending over hundreds of miles of territory. More than 150 Officers have been produced out of one London Corps alone. Let it always be remembered, therefore, that the least help given to the Army may result in the raising up of some man who will become a mighty instrument in God's hands for the Salvation of the multitudes.

All who desire to help forward this great soul-saving movement should send contributions to the SECRETARY, 101, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., or to GENERAL BOOTH; and Cheques, Postal Orders, &c., should be crossed "City Bank." The smallest amounts will be gratefully received. The fullest information about any branch of the work, together with balance-sheets, &c. (certified by chartered accountants), will be supplied *gratis* on application.