

1888

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COMING ARMY

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THE
Coming Army.

I.—The Hour and the Men.



In commencing this slight sketch of one of the most extraordinary advances that can be reported even by the Salvation Army, it seems necessary to make one confession. If the teachings and plans of the Salvation Army be injurious, then the huge organisation for work amongst the children which they have brought into existence during 1888 should be looked upon with the greatest horror and indignation, for there can be no doubt that scores of thousands of little ones are being so thoroughly imbued with the principles, and so trained in the practices of the Salvation Army, that it will be their great idea in life to perpetuate and multiply just such services and labours as the Army is now carrying on. The Swiss authorities, who have imprisoned a young English lady for a hundred days for holding children's meetings, have, after all, only given a thorough-going expression to the horror of having children influenced by the Salvation Army, which is shared by many persons in this country.



But we write for the information of those who, on the other hand, rejoice in the existence of a great organisation for the salvation of the poor, and who will therefore be ready to receive with thanksgiving to God an account of the way in which He has enabled the Army during the past year to provide for the effectual establishment of its work amongst the young.

First Children's Meetings. From the very commencement of the Christian

Services have always been recognised as a necessary part of Salvation work. We believe in the Holy Ghost, who is just as well able to inspire the heart of a little child in our day as in the days of old, and right along the whole history of the Army and the mission our faith has been justified by remarkable exhibitions of the power of God to save in the earliest years of life, and then to use the tiniest feet and the weakest voices to carry His word with irresistible power to rebel hearts.

Then a Children's Newspaper. In 1881 we commenced a weekly illustrated paper, called the *Little Soldier*, for the purpose of recording the story of our work among the children of the Army, and this publication, now called the *Young Soldier*, with a circulation of close upon 100,000 weekly, containing, like its elder brother the *War Cry*, absolutely nothing but matter directly relating to the salvation of souls, stands a great permanent testimony to the reality and widespread character of the work which has been done by the Army for the souls of the children.

Wanted a Leader. During all these years, however, it became increasingly manifest that this great work could not be efficiently carried on without a separate organisation under leaders willing to devote themselves altogether to the children, and at the same time possessing enough experience and enough influence in the Army to enable them to exercise authority effectually on old and young alike. Only the slow progress of years could produce the necessary staff. Some indeed, like Staff Captain Stanley Ewens, have been labouring amongst the children from their boyhood. But we saw plainly that, in order to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of our adult Officers and soldiers throughout the kingdom, it would be necessary to select and to spare some one who already held a front place on the Staff of the senior forces, and it was not until the end of 1887 that the right man was found. It then came to the General's knowledge that Major Mackenzie, second in command of the London Division.

was so intensely interested in the children that he would gladly devote himself altogether to work amongst them. His appointment was soon determined upon, and the story that follows will say more to justify our conviction that this was the man of God's own choice than any words of commendation, which would, we know, be most unwelcome to the Major himself.

The Leader Found. Having known what it was, as a poor fatherless boy,

Helper, delighting from the very time of his conversion to labour amongst the ragged little waifs of the Metropolis, and married to one who had also been converted in early life, and had been accustomed for years to work for the salvation of the young, the Major is eminently at home in his new task, our only fear being that the intensity of his anxieties and the multiplicity of his labours should prove too great for his weakly body.

He has found helpers like-minded with himself, and who, having learned all the terrible lessons of child-life as it exists in our crowded cities, are only too well fitted by their own experience to deal with the juvenile masses who demand the Army's care.

There is Staff-Captain Leighton, for example, a runaway from school and home, who was in police custody when he was only twelve years of age, and in prison at fourteen, but who, after a terrible career of drunkenness and misery, got saved six years ago, and after holding a number of important commands amongst the seniors, has gladly devoted himself to the children's work.

Another of the Adjutants ran away from home and enlisted in the Militia at fourteen, and also sank previously to his conversion to the deepest depth of ragged misery which is experienced by the victims of sin.

Under such leaders you may be sure that no part of the great work which the Salvation Army ought to do amongst the young will be left out of sight, but that from the quiet and orderly to the most unruly and troublesome, every unsaved child will share their loving care.

2.—The Work to be Done.

The Great Education Failure. We may surely consider, in view of recent startling events, that we have reached the end of the Utopian nonsense about education which was to be heard on every hand twenty years ago. The first generation of School

Board scholars now surround us, and, after the expenditure of millions of money, Society finds itself in presence of an educated ruffianism which defies authority more effectually than its more brutal and less accomplished predecessor. Gangs of youths, delighting in any extreme of violence, parade the streets of the metropolis itself, and it turns out that they and their brothers in provincial towns regard the use of deadly weapons with an indifference that was unknown in this country of fistcuffs even ten years ago, whilst the Churches generally admit their impotence to deal to any considerable extent with the young.

How many Sunday Scholars join the Churches? We have no desire to make one depreciatory remark with regard to any work which is being done for the good of the young, but at the same time we consider that nothing can be more fatal than the careless spirit which shuts its eyes to the most serious facts and goes on talking as though good intentions were sufficient to ensure a complete success. In 1883 there were upwards of six millions of Sunday scholars in the United Kingdom under 674,695 teachers, but only 65,080 children, or 1 per cent. of the scholars, were members of the Churches.

In 1887 there were 1,379,823 scholars on the books of the Sunday School Union, taught by 141,478 teachers, 104,632 of whom were Church members, but during the year only 17,124 of the children, or one out of every 85, were added to the rolls of the Churches. There can be no need further to darken this awful picture by pushing the question as to the meaning of admission to Church membership, for even supposing that the comparative handful who pass from the rolls of the Sunday School to those of the Churches were all truly saved, what an awful indication is afforded by these figures as to the condition of the millions of children who have the best educational advantages which secular and religious authority in the country affords.

Millions without a Shepherd. Vast indeed is the emergency with which we are called to deal. We have first of all to provide for the children of the millions who attend our services, but in view of the appalling spread of irreligion on every hand, of the decay of faith in so many circles hitherto described as religious, and of this practically demonstrated incapacity of any existing system to induce any considerable proportion of the rising generation to turn to God, we have to create an organisa-

tion capable of doing for the young what our senior corps are doing for the old, with all the added difficulty which arises from the overwhelmingly godless surroundings amidst which the young people of our cities and towns have to live.

Education we do not profess to give, and in fact we discourage the intrusion of any merely educational work into our children's meetings. Surely education has had its day, so far as effecting the moral improvement of the condition of the people is concerned, and at any rate, in view of the vast sums of money and the enormous amount of intelligent industry devoted to the multiplication of every branch of instruction in the country, there can be no need for the poor Salvation Army to assist the nation to a knowledge of reading, or even of Scripture history.

Our Education. We preach Christ crucified, to School Boards a

"stumbling block," and to many professors, we fear, "foolishness"; but unto them which are called, both old and young, Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God. Our one object in all our dealings with the children, as with the adults, is to lead them to the Saviour, who is able to deliver them from evil, and to help them to be saints in school and in the streets.

Our Schools. Our plan of operations is as follows. Wherever

possible a separate building for the use of the children is built or hired, but until such a place can be secured, the barracks used by our adult corps is placed at the disposal of the juniors for three or four hours on Sundays, and an hour on one or two week-nights, so that children's meetings may be held whilst the seniors are at their work out of doors. The children's meetings are conducted in a very similar way to those we hold for their elders. But in order thoroughly to maintain the interest of the very youngest who attend, various movements of the body are frequently combined with the singing, whilst a sort of rough-and-ready catechising enables the leader of the meeting to discover how far the children are understanding and receiving what they are taught. Wherever a sufficient number of adult workers can be secured the children are divided into companies, each child being thus put under the special care of a Sergeant, whose duty it is not only to find out by close personal inquiry whether each member of his charge is truly converted, but to visit them at home, ascertain whether their parents are satisfied with their daily life, and continually watch over them, except so

far, of course, as godly parents may relieve him or her of this duty.

Our Scholars. From the first, and in every way, we treat the children as living souls, responsible to the extent of their light for their own relationship to God and man, needing the same radical change through which every other human



"Does you love Jesus?"

being must pass in order to become a child of God, and having placed within their reach, through the death of Christ, all the privileges and duties of saintship.

The little child who is convinced of sin is required to come out before other children and kneel at a penitent form just as we require an aged sinner to do. The little voice must be raised in voluntary prayer for God's pardon and Salvation from sin before we encourage any hope of becoming "good," and each professed convert is called upon in their own home before their own "company," and then in public meetings out-doors and openly, to acknowledge their Saviour, and to call upon others to repent and to come to Him.

We look with the utmost disgust upon the prevalent notion that children should be treated in religious matters as though goodness and truth were synonymous with softness and cant. We do not wonder at the general disposition of healthy boys and girls to fling off religious restraints which are associated in their minds with a hush of stillness, an unnatural constraint of manner, and a general abandonment of everything manly and strong, and we give no quarter to anything of the kind.

Soldier-making. We refuse to recognise, as a Junior Soldier Corps, any body of children which is not marched out to hold open-air services of their own every week, and we train every child who claims to be a soldier to show by the wearing of uniform or badges (where permitted by parents and employers), and by every form of Salvation Army activity, that he or she really belongs to Jesus Christ, and is prepared to stand up for Him alone against the world.

We need hardly say, however, that to do all this for children requires an amount of care in teaching, and of oversight in daily life, beyond what may be required in the case of adults. Far be it from us to claim that we have already attained a full measure of success in this newly organised branch of our work, but we think we shall be able to show that we have already made gigantic strides in this direction; and keeping continually before us this high ideal, we believe God will enable us ere long to do something in a degree answering to the enormous need that exists.

Our Juniors Abroad. Our operations in this direction outside the United Kingdom have not as yet attained any great extension, for our Officers everywhere naturally look to us to show the way in every new development of the war. But in Canada, Sweden, and at the Cape of Good Hope the work has already gained such proportions as to necessitate the regular issue of a children's paper, and in all our twenty-six *War Crys* are to be

found continually proofs that the Army universally recognises the need, and is setting about dealing with it in good earnest.

Living in Moral Cesspools. No words of ours could convey anything like a correct idea of the nature of the surroundings in which our little soldiers have to live and labour. Think of motherless Nellie, five years old, sitting night after night on the public-house door-step for hours, waiting for father to come out, yet dreading the kicks and blows he would probably give her, wandering about in the daytime, picking up potatoe-parings or any other refuse she could find to assuage the pangs of hunger. How could we hope successfully to approach such a child with mere teaching? What but the presence of an Almighty Deliverer day by day could enable a child so brought up to sing the songs of heaven instead of those of the tap-room, and to struggle through to the end of her little career, rejoicing in being saved and ready to die?

Or in Infidel Mansions. But look at the other extreme of the crowd, and observe well-dressed Mattie as she goes to her school, with an S. fixed on each side of her collar, to be observed all the day long, by teachers and scholars alike, as one who professes to have passed through a sudden spiritual change, which no one else there believes in, and to have become in very deed a daughter of the Lord God Almighty, qualified and required to be a witness for Jesus everywhere. Of the two, we are inclined to think that she has, perhaps, after all, the harder task.

To raise and maintain a force of children who shall *Only to Fight.* not only live godly from day to day, but shall carry on for their King a warfare as continual and as desperate as that of the adult Salvation soldier, is indeed a stupendous undertaking, but it is to this and nothing less that we have applied ourselves in downright earnest for the last twelve months, and we think we can show that we have already attained an astonishing amount of success.

3.—What has been Done in 1888.

At the commencement of 1888 Major Mackenzie *113 Officers Appointed* gathered his Staff around him. There were in all nine persons employed in directing the work among the children. We have now 38 Staff Officers who are engaged in organising the work throughout the whole country, and 75 Field

Officers in command of Junior Soldier Corps; 108 of these Officers are entirely supported by the children to whom they minister. Besides the Field and Staff Officers, 2,493 Local Officers (that is, voluntary workers who are set aside for this labour) have been appointed.

In brief, there has been raised up, mostly within one year, an organisation for the salvation of children greater than the Salvation Army itself was in the thirteenth year of its age, and an organisation such as we believe no one has ever attempted to form in the world before.

108 Supported by the Juniors' War. Of late years some of the Churches have been wise enough to establish some central officers in connection with their Sunday-school and Band of Hope Unions, and these associations have employed school inspectors and others; but here are more than a hundred young men and women engaged entirely in holding services for the children, and supported by funds raised at those services!

Let us try, without dwelling too much upon the doings of any one individual, to explain how all this has come about. With regard to the part taken in the matter by Major and Mrs. MacKenzie and their London Staff we need say nothing; the great facts of the year's story will speak loudly enough. We have only to beg the prayers of all our friends, old and young, that the Major's exhausted strength may be renewed, and that he may be fitted to resume the labours that have had to be broken off for long-needed rest, at no distant date.

The Major has under him 6 Adjutants and 23 *Adjutants and Ensigns.* Ensigns, to each of whom the care of the Junior Soldiers' War in some division or district of the Army is committed, each one being expected to organise a thoroughly satisfactory Juniors' Corps in connection with each adult one. Some of the Adjutants have more than 50, and most of the Ensigns more than 20 corps to attend to, so that it is no wonder to find that some of them have personally led in the month of October more than 60 meetings.

Their Work. Their first business is to interest all the Officers of the Senior Corps in their work by addressing them in Officers' meetings and privately; and as there are many of our Field Officers who have really had no opportunity to learn anything of work amongst children, it will be readily understood how important is this first step in the work of an Adjutant and Ensign,

and how much of all accomplished must result from the influence thus brought to bear, and the explanations thus given. Then follow meetings with grown-up people, in which their interest in soul-saving work among the little ones is aroused or stimulated, and volunteers to assist in the matter are called for.

Bearing in mind how many of our soldiers are engaged so late at their daily toil as to make it impossible for them to take any considerable share in the work among the children, and how many of the willing ones are too illiterate to be able to keep satisfactory records, it will be easily understood with what difficulty these Staff Officers often meet in trying to obtain the necessary number of workers.

Field Officers. Wherever there is a large building available entirely for the children's use the Divisional Officer naturally desires to get Field Officers appointed; but where there is no prospect of being able to support agents wholly employed in the work some one must be found capable of thoroughly organising and keeping up the whole of the meetings, with many or few assistants. Happy is the Junior Soldier Sergeant-Major who has more than two Sergeants to assist him. Yet one of these Sergeants must act as door-keeper, and often have all his strength and attention more than occupied in preventing a few juvenile Skeletons from disturbing the meeting.

744 Corps. However, in connection with almost every corps in the Salvation Army there are to be found men and women who will spare no time and effort in labours for the young, and so our Adjutants and Ensigns passing to and fro have been able, during the year, to organise no less than 744 corps, under 664 Sergeant-Majors and 1,829 Sergeants. Only 185 of these Sergeant-Majors and 502 of the Sergeants had been appointed before the end of 1887. In some parts of the country, and in London especially, they have been materially assisted by 34 sectional Sergeant-Majors; that is to say, persons who, having time at their disposal, assist in the organisation and working of several corps without fee or reward.

Once the workers are forthcoming, the work comes readily enough to hand. A hall is placed at an Officer's disposal, and he calls for volunteers from amongst the saved children to assist in cleaning it, and a score of them in his company, armed with pails, soap, flannel, and brushes, are soon on the spot to transform the dirty, disused loft into a

neat and clean meeting-place. But they must have a platform, for our Junior Soldiers' barracks, like those for the adults, are fitted up for the accommodation of rows upon rows of speakers whom we expect God to raise up from amongst our hearers. The Officer goes round from shop to shop throughout the town or village, begging for planks and nails, and by-and-by, with the



The Clapton Junior Soldier Corps on the March.

volunteer assistance of some soldier carpenters, is able to point with happy pride to a platform on which fifty or sixty little ones can be seated, and which only cost in all a few pence for an odd fitting or two, which could not be begged.

Filling Halls. Then out he goes into the streets with his happy little band of saved singers, and has no difficulty in gathering in a short time a larger audience of children than the building will contain. Meeting follows meeting, house-to-house

visits are multiplied, and in the course of a few months there is a corps of children soldiers, as truly saved from their sins, as thoroughly determined to labour for the salvation of others, and as perfectly under Salvation Army discipline as any corps of adults we have. Some of our Adjutants and Ensigns are now able, in addition to maintaining the existing ones in a state of efficiency, to establish three or four new corps in a month; so that there can be no doubt that this coming Army will be doubled, if not more than doubled, in the course of another twelvemonth.

One hesitates even to report all that is known of ^{50,000} Penitents. the results of this blessed work already, because, seeing how great is the charm of novelty to the young, and how multiplied are the difficulties in setting out upon any new path, one prefers to rejoice with trembling rather than boastfully. Yet it would be the basest ingratitude not to give God the glory of what He has been doing, and the vilest of unbelief to doubt the reality of what is His work. During the past twelve months some 50,000 of the children who have attended our meetings have come to our penitent forms, and have had their names recorded by the Sergeants who have subsequently looked after them. Should any one ask how many of these have been truly saved and can be found to-day fighting for the Saviour, we would reply that we believe the question would bear careful examination at any given spot, and that the more persons we can induce to take the matter up in an earnest and practical way the more thankful we shall be, and the more satisfactory will be the account they will be able to render when another year has rolled away.

Eighty-eight separate buildings have been provided ^{88 Barracks} _{got.} during the year for the children, to the extent of 22,000

sittings, and there are now in progress arrangements for the accommodation of thousands more. But as the barracks of the seniors are, as has been already explained, used by the children where no other accommodation exists, and as our Officers are so accustomed to make the most of open-air meetings and of all sorts of rough-and-ready arrangements, the above figures give no idea of the amount of effort that has been put forth during the year to open doors for the children.

Complete registers have been opened in connection with every Junior Corps, and a set of orders and regulations issued for the guidance of all engaged in the work, so that we can now say that our Junior

Soldiers' Work is as complete in its organisation as that amongst the seniors.

Difficulties naturally arose in many directions in grafting this new work on all the old arrangements of the Army, and another distinguished Staff Officer, Captain Rowe, was set apart as a travelling organiser, with ample powers to select Sergeants, make arrangements for buildings, settle and unsettle existing customs, so that the work amongst the young might have free scope everywhere.

In short, the story of the Junior Soldiers' War in 1888 is just the latest manifestation of the Salvation Army's intense vitality and readiness to make any new advances which are necessary to accomplish all that requires to be done for every class of the population.

4.—How the Work is Done.

Open-air Work. As with our senior forces, so with the junior, a great deal of our fighting is done in the open air.

No one need ever lack a congregation of the right sort who is prepared to deal with the children out-doors; and especially through the long, bright summer days our Officers have had and made good use of abundant opportunities to gather the children in fields and at street-corners or upon the sea-shore for Army meetings, where, by the simplest songs and speeches, they have been taught the essential truths of salvation. Every one knows how the children love to "follow the Army," even when the march and meeting are not specially for them; but a meeting held by their own Officers, and all for themselves, in the beloved freedom of out doors, where even a preliminary wash and tidy up is not a needless preparation for the delight of gathering round to sing and listen—this is an irresistible attraction indeed.

The first attempt at such a meeting at a well-known seaside resort resulted in loud complaints and threats of violence towards the Officers by the boatmen and other pleasuremongers, who declared that "nothing else would be thought of while the Army was about," and that their business was therefore in danger.

In Winter. But not only in summer days can our open-air meetings be held. From a Welsh Sergeant we have a description of his work last February, which proves how we can carry on our operations regardless of season and weather. He

writes, "We have a Junior Soldiers' barracks on a mountain called the Garn (about a mile from Abersychan). The other night was very foggy, and so we marched on to war, with a bell in one hand and a lamp in the other, to hold a meeting on the Garn. When we got on the mountain and rang our bell we were soon surrounded by a lot of the lambs we were after. Off we went for a march, ringing our bell and singing our song, 'Bright Crowns!' About eighty of them followed us into the barracks, and twenty knelt down and asked Jesus to take all their sins away."

What a scene of interest to that village street must have been that bell-ringing, song-singing march through the dreary fog of a February evening! Can any one suppose that those children will ever lose the taste thus acquired for open warfare on the Lord's side? And who can wonder that by such congenial means our barracks are easily filled with little ones eager to hear and to learn?

In-door Meetings. We have already referred to the nature of our in-door meetings for the Juniors. We aim at the most simple, direct, and forcible teaching possible, but teaching of the conscience and the heart rather than the head; not so much teaching of Bible facts as striving to bring the souls of boys and girls to that point of surrender to God and obedience to His commands to bring about which the Bible was written. Thus, a course of Salvation meetings may not produce one child able to show creditably if examined by a school standard, but a score or more will be able to tell you with beaming assurance, "I am saved, and so happy!" whose lives have proved, even in homes most adverse to such a change, that they have really entered upon a new and holy life.

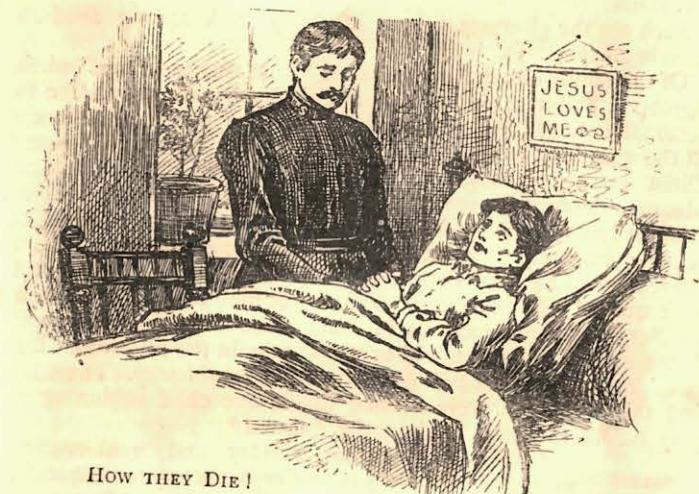
But our Officers do not confine their work among **Visitation.** children to meetings, either out-doors or in. They visit constantly among those who may for various reasons attend neither, and are known and loved among the child-residents of many a dingy court and slum. We may trace their influence in a touching picture such as one of them gives in describing the poverty of a home she visited:—

"I overheard a conversation between two little ones who were left behind in a cold, empty room while father and mother had gone to look for work:—

"'You know, Polly,' began the little brother, 'in heaven it will be always nice and warm. We'll have plenty of clothes there, and

mother will never have to pay the rent. We'll play in beautiful gardens, and whenever we want something we shall only have to say, If you please, Jesus, and we shall get it.'

"How nice!" sighed the little sister faintly. "Johnny, I wish I was in heaven; I would ask Jesus for some bread then; I am so hungry, so very hungry!"



HOW THEY DIE!

"I want mother to come to heaven after me, and Jesus is the Way."

The Drunkard's Bairn. Again, we read of little dying soldier Jess, the child of a drunken mother. The Officer, clambering up the dark, dirty stairs, hears the failing voice trying to sing, and entering, finds her alone, but "so happy."

Anxiously her eyes turned towards the door as the figure of a miserable sin-marked woman entered. "Mother, mother, I am so glad you have come. I'm dying, mother, and I want you to meet me in heaven. Will you, mother? Do say Yes."

"I've been such a bad mother to you, Jess," she said. "Will

you forgive me? and will the Almighty forgive me? Oh, Jess, pray for your wretched mother!" "Yes, mother," answered the dying child, "I will pray for you, but you must pray for yourself as well. I want you to come to heaven after me, and Jesus is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. Jesus—the Way—the Truth—the Life," she slowly repeated again, and little Jess's spirit triumphantly took its flight through the pearly gates into the New Jerusalem.

Such are the glimpses we get of Army work among children outside all meetings.

Of the family-like gatherings called "company meetings," when a group of children, gathered around their Sergeant, are spoken to personally about their souls, and led into free conversation upon all the questions affecting the daily life of a follower of Jesus Christ on which they need help, it is impossible to give any adequate description, seeing that each meeting held must differ more or less from the others. Some idea of the nature and effect of these intensely practical services may, however, be got from the remark of one experienced Officer, "For nearly five years I have worked with the Junior soldiers, yet nine months ago, when our Sergeant-Major took us in hand there were only Sergeant Lottie and myself who could or would pray in the meetings. But now, praise God, we have nearly twenty who will pray. Thursday and this afternoon were blessed times, one child beginning to pray before the other had hardly finished."

Besides the regular Sunday and week-evening **Special Meetings.** meetings of each Junior Corps, there are frequently special celebrations which do much to stir the enthusiasm of both children and adults. Such are the quarterly meetings, when the Junior soldiers of several corps unite, and after a big march, and in some cases a tea together, the platform of the senior corps visited is given up to the juniors for the evening, and the adult meeting led by the children and their Officers. We have abundant testimony that not only is this evening with the juniors reckoned a joyous occasion by the Salvation Army family itself, but that it is pleasant to outsiders, and often fruitful in the saving of sinners.

The visits of the Adjutant of the district are also the occasion of special efforts in the form of united marches and attacks upon the streets and courts of the neighbourhood, and also of indoor meetings for the Junior soldiers themselves, in which they can

be drilled in the duties of a soldier, and taught the Army standard of goodness.

And again there come occasionally still grander red-letter days in the form of some large demonstration of the Junior soldiers, in connection with the anniversary of their own corps or other special occurrence. Of these the enormous demonstration at Alexandra Palace, on July 9th, is, of course, by far the most remarkable gathering of children known during our history. No one who saw the huge orchestra of the Palace, with its lining of Junior soldiers all ablaze with excitement, and yet all perfectly under command, could help feeling that the Army of the future is already taking form with mighty power, for although we do not claim that these demonstrations are in themselves directly useful in the salvation of souls, yet they are a wonderful proof of the hold we have already gained upon the children, and show what numbers are being steadily disciplined and taught how really to pray, how to speak out boldly for God, and how to carry on in every way a spiritual warfare for Him. The fact, too, that seniors in such large numbers, and belonging to the working class, are ready to break away from their own affairs and give up a week-day to the necessary care of the children which these occasions demand, shows the love for the work which has sprung up in our midst, and which, we believe, will be stimulated by exercise and prove itself equal to the gigantic task before us.

5.—What the Juniors Do themselves.

God's Little Champions. A report which does not give some details of the Junior soldiers' own war will hardly be complete. Believing as we do that God is as willing to speak through a saved child now as through Samuel of old, and as able to conquer His enemies by the hand of a boy as in the days of David, we are not surprised that this year should be rich in stories of victory, not only concerning, but actually by the hand of the little ones. These records of our Juniors' triumphs are too numerous for more than the selection of a few specimens, which show our children's influence in their own homes and in visiting, as well as the effect of their words from the platform.

"Kate" writes from Heckmondwike—

"My companion and I were visiting a girl who was dying. We sang and prayed with her, and spoke to the father about his soul, and, praise God, while we were speaking to him, he fell down upon his knees, and cried that the Lord would save him. That prayer was answered; he got saved before we left the house."

Sergeant-Major Barr contributes the following account of a boy of thirteen, who was the means of the conversion of a whole family:—

"Dear Comrade,—I herewith send you particulars as to my brother being the means through the Salvation Army of bringing our family to God. About six years ago last October my brother got saved, and joined the Salvation Army (Canning Town Corps), being then about thirteen years of age. He very soon began to work in the Junior Soldiers' Corps, and God blessed his labours. He let his light shine at home, so that my mother went to the Army out of curiosity, and got convicted, and then saved. So a while afterwards my father went, and got converted also. One remarkable thing in my father's conversion was that after being a heavy smoker for nearly forty years, he had no desire to touch the pipe again. And then I got saved. And we are all fighting for Jesus. My brother is now a Lieutenant in the work, stationed at Ely, Cambridge. God bless you. Yours in Christ, A. S."

Another officer reports the following triumph won by a little soldier of eleven. He says—

"This little lad came to our meetings about eight months ago, and got saved. We showed him his duties as a Junior soldier, to wear uniform, sell the *Young Soldier*, and try and get his parents saved, which he set to work to do at once.

"His father was a drunkard, and had not been in a place of worship for twelve years. He used to write prayers on a slate, and gave it to his father.

"After several weeks he succeeded in getting his father to the Barracks, and although *so deaf* that all he could hear was the beat of the drum or the loudest brass instrument, yet the Spirit of God laid hold of him, and he came out to the penitent-form, and got saved.

"This was on the Saturday night. On Sunday night the boy's mother gave her heart to God. Since then his little brother has done so also, and they are all now going about wearing uniform."

We hear of a timid little girl who listened, at Whitsuntide, in the meeting to her Captain reading the account in Acts ii. of the baptism of fire. Verse by verse he went through it, and on coming to the part, "And they were all filled with the **And the Dumb Speak.** Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues,"

the lassie looked up, and said to herself, "That is very likely the reason why I have failed! I've tried to give my experience inside and outside with my own tongue, and perhaps that is the reason why I have failed, and couldn't get on a bit."

At the close of the meeting the Captain asked for volunteers for this perfect deliverance and baptism, and that she might have power to speak with a tongue touched by the finger of God, she knelt at the form, where her prayer was answered. She then went home and told her wicked parents about the Saviour's love, and pleaded with them to give up sin and turn to God.

The result of all this was the salvation of the parents, and in the Junior soldiers' meetings four brothers and sisters, so that S. R. E., who writes the account, says that he stood in the ring with this saved family, consisting of seven members, who could all rejoice in a blessed salvation.

Perhaps one of the most extraordinary facts we have yet heard comes through Major Noyce from the Staffordshire Potteries:—

"A father and mother of a family of seven children were in the constant habit of drinking at the **The Pugilist gives in.** pubs, and almost every week this woman, who was a powerful creature physically, was backed by her husband to fight for money any man in the neighbourhood.

"Sunday after Sunday these fights used to come off, when the husband would act as his wife's second in the battle. By this means a great deal of money was got, as she scarcely lost a battle."

"The old story of the Army's coming along put a stop to this state of things. First one of the children got saved, and was beaten and imprisoned in the house for going to the Junior soldiers' meetings. In spite of all she persevered in going, and after awhile got her mother to let her read from the *Young Soldier* something which brought the tears; then persuaded her to go to some of the meetings, at the third of which she was captured for Christ.

"Now that the husband's gains from her fighting were gone, she expected a row, but consoled herself by saying, 'Never mind ; I'm the boss, and I'll make him behave himself.' Finally he got saved, and the whole family are Salvationists."

Our work is continually proving the value of the Juniors on the platform.

We often receive reports from Adjutants similar to **A Little Child Leads.** the following as the result of meetings addressed by the children : "I am pleased to say that we had a splendid day here at Plymouth I. On Sunday we had fourteen souls during the day ; old and young at the Cross together, crying for mercy. Their ages ranged from nine to thirty-five."

Or this—

"Glasgow VII. There are about one hundred real blood and fire Juniors here. We had seventy in the march ; they sang, and carried torches, until we had a tremendous crowd. We had a united open-air with the big corps. Inside the Juniors took the platform, and the senior meeting also. We had a heaven on earth time. Five seniors and four Juniors wept their way to Christ, who loves to save."

Or this from Camberwell—

"It was only by accident I wandered in here, and all through the children. So cried a drunkard at the penitent-form in our Junior hall last Monday. We had felt the Lord very near us in the two open-air rings we held before the meeting, but when once we got to our knees inside the Spirit of God so took possession of us that no one thought of rising ; we forgot everything ; even the collections and announcements were omitted that night. Every soul seemed impressed from the beginning with the fact that something special was to happen, and while we pleaded with God, and sang choruses, of sin, judgment, pardon, peace, and liberty, the Holy Spirit did a mighty work in so convicting the drunken man who sat at the back that he was at last compelled by the irresistible power to yield, and while with a broken heart he came out weeping and crying aloud for mercy, our soldiers (many of them also in tears) held on to God until the victory came. One saved lass, a little mite, knelt without fear by the big man's side, and softly sang—

Helping the Drunkard.

"Would Jesus have the sinner die ?"
the drunkard himself pleading the refrain—

"Forgive me, Father, oh, forgive !
Let a repenting sinner live."



How they Fight.

Our praying ring started, with much feeling, that old favourite verse—

"Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,
which so touched the heart of the penitent man that he cried out,
'Oh, that's beautiful ! I am but a little child.'

"Suff r me to come to Thee."

Oh, yes ! God be merciful to me a sinner, teach me how to pray, and let my mother's prayers be answered to-night.'

"Glory be to Jesus ! they were answered, though the struggle was long and fierce, for the devil did his best to hinder the salvation of the poor fellow who had been his victim for so long.

"Send a message to my wife and children," were almost the first words after the conflict was over, and the victory won ; 'I have a good wife and seven little ones. Let them know ; they don't live here.'

Our juniors have also proved that it is not alone in exciting meetings that they show a desire and ability to help in saving others.

The Self-Denial week of the Salvation Army was ^{£1,013} **Self-denial.** a testing-time for the children, and how well they passed through it is shown by the fact that the Junior forces raised the astonishing sum of £1,013 for the Self-denial Fund.

Numbers of children lived on bread and water (even one whole Junior corps did this, and sent £4 to the fund as a result), others on bread and water with salt, others on tea without sugar and milk, others on bread without butter. Then there were quite a number who gave up little luxuries and pleasures, which to them were important, and in fact sometimes their all ; with some it was their weekly pocket-money ; with others their sweets, gloves, bonnets, playthings, tricycles, little savings were laid on the altar.

In a certain J. S. corps we have three or four Junior soldiers in one family, and it was a puzzle what they could do for self-denial week. After a little thought they asked their father how much he would give them if they cleaned their own boots instead of allowing the servants to clean them. He decided to give them a penny each, which was entered as their contribution to the Self-denial Fund. One little five-year-old lived without cake all the week—perhaps more to her than £1,000 to a millionaire.

Enduring Hardness. Under the stress of persecution our children have shown also a great deal of the cross-bearing spirit.

We hear not only of their being stoned and kicked in some of the open-air marches, but of constant bullying and annoyance at school or from unsaved brothers and sisters at home, and in a few cases positive cruelty from ungodly parents, who thrashed

or turned out of doors the brave boys and girls who refused any longer to drink or swear.



How they Endure Persecution.

Every week our candidates for the work increase in number not only from senior soldiers and Officers, but also from the elder boys and girls of our own ranks. Nor do these offers come with-

out a clear knowledge that they are choosing a path in life full of difficulties, and in many cases privation and suffering.

Self-sacrifice. A boy of fifteen writes to us as follows: "I feel that God has led me to write this letter to you to tell you that I will give up my friends, home life, and everything that I have, and follow Jesus to India. I have made this a matter of prayer, and I feel that it is the Spirit of God that has told me to write this letter. I will willingly give up my life for those Indians who are living in sin day by day."

Another, from a lad of sixteen, shows the same earnest desire to obey the Spirit of God:—

"I have much pleasure in writing to you on behalf of volunteering to India, as I feel God has been calling me for India. I have prayed to God, asking Him to use me there as He will."

Another, from a dear motherless boy, whose father had turned him outdoors for bad behaviour, but who four months ago knelt at our penitent form and received the prodigal's welcome home by our Father in heaven, will touch many a heart:—

"I, —, having heard that you want fifty volunteers for India's Junior soldier war, am led by God the Saviour of mankind to offer myself as one to go and save this dying world in His strength. I mean to do all that I can to save the children. I feel that my Lord and Saviour has called me to go and work for Him in India."

A letter from one of our young Sergeants shows the same spirit of devotion, and these letters have come simply as a result of a few words suggesting that such volunteers might be wanted shortly. No pressure has been put upon the children, for at present we have not the money to carry out the gigantic scheme proposed, of training lads for foreign service.

God has enabled us already to raise, organise, and train 744 corps of little ones, who understand that to "be good" in Jesus Christ's opinion means not only the giving up of all sin and worldliness, but the taking up of His cross and the absolute surrender of our whole life to assist Him in saving the world.

6.—Our Prospects.

116 Officers Wanted. From the great work accomplished during the past year, there has naturally sprung a corresponding demand for its extension to every part of the country. We know

already of fifty-eight corps that are prepared to support Officers if we were prepared to appoint them.

In order to meet this largely growing demand, and to give all engaged in this special work some training for it, we have just established a Depôt for the training of women Officers, where we shall be able to accommodate twenty at a time.

We purpose to open a similar Depôt for men immediately, and as rapidly as we can increase the number of fully employed and voluntary agents. We know that we can gather the children and multiply the ranks of those who, like the corps we have been describing, will in turn daily strive to maintain and push forward the work.

We have shown how determined has been the effort to make this branch of the work self-supporting. Our friends will remember, however, that the cost of training Officers for the Junior Soldiers' War, and the necessity to help Junior Soldiers' Corps in very poor districts, falls upon Head-quarters, and therefore financial assistance is needed in order that these responsibilities may be met. In every case of the erection of suitable buildings a grant from the International Funds has also to be made, as the children can very rarely raise the whole of the amount needed.

We are confident that there are many persons deeply interested in work amongst children who will take pleasure in assisting us in this department, and thus enable us to develop the work more rapidly than we otherwise could, and to increase the oversight to which we attach so great importance.

We do not delude ourselves with the imagination that because some 18,000 children are marching in our ranks, and so far as we know glorifying God by their every-day life, we have solved the problem of salvation work among the little ones. On the contrary, we are full of jealous care that the foundation already laid should be built upon with the most prayerful and diligent attention to the special needs of every child.

But this we do know, and can show by multiplied instances, that Jesus is the Saviour of the little ones, that He can and does deliver them from this present evil world, and through His power we see growing up a continually increasing number of young people who, having been trained for years past in the way they should go—the Salvation Army way—will not depart from it, but will, by God's help, lead millions into it before they die.

Your Share in the Work. What shall be your share in this great work? A few shillings will pay the rental of one of our Junior Soldier halls for a week. A pound or two, supplementing the children's gifts, will help some officer with travelling expenses to visit the many corps under his charge more frequently than he otherwise could do. Much as we wish to press the principles of self-support at the outset, we do not wish the young Officers' minds to be racked with anything like the financial anxiety which many of their elders have had to bear.

Therefore we entreat you, whether you can do much or little, to avail yourself of the opportunity to help us at the commencement of this new and important enterprise. We call upon all who have the opportunity and the gift, amongst our Officers and soldiers, to devote their life and strength to this war. But let those who may not be able to lead the little ones against the enemy at least relieve their fighting comrades from any difficulty about funds. **DO YOUR SHARE, AND DO IT AT ONCE!**

Contributions should be sent to the Financial Secretary, 101, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., or to General Booth.

(Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "City Bank.")