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TERMS.

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Rates of Exchange—Ministers in the bounds of this Conference are requested to address "Rev. W. S. Pope, Raleigh, N. C."

Communications.

For the Advocate.

Times Commented.

Commissions in the Army—Important to us—An appeal to men—The way to do it—The soldier at home.

Mr. Editor: I seldom write for publication. I have no more time to spend in idleness; and following from the business, "the business from the army" which was done in the *Advocate* brings me, you see, but little space to spare me.

Our army is swarming with letter-writers, some of your pronouncers are read in our camps—full of inter-[illegible] "*Deux et pretum nihil.*"

Well, every one has a sage for the great people and no one is [illegible] hence it. I will be with you, now over, [illegible] of a minister's Bible. As we have something he [illegible] says, be ready to pay [illegible] when you get it said.

[illegible]

[illegible] I have thought a decided lack of a man by to be a soldier to own and give [illegible] soldier is struggled in the mind [illegible] a blessing to make his way [illegible]. I have sometimes seen brethren [illegible] God's servant [illegible] from the pulpit. I actually [illegible] a minister in full view of not one [illegible] in his pocket a small [illegible] on his [illegible] while another was [illegible] on the all a strong [illegible] Bible.

I am [illegible] who seems to be inspired [illegible] building, or [illegible] occupied [illegible] his undivided.

A[illegible] Mr. Editor, doesn't it cause the [illegible] more fearfully when just as you [illegible] pounce the heads [illegible] in the pulpit and in the [illegible]? O, how I have longed just [illegible] Fast Ass. [illegible] and Hur to hold up my [illegible] hands while God contended with Amalek.

When I have been most charitable toward [illegible] I have concluded that perhaps they knew it all, and that their [illegible] to be stirred up by any [illegible].

There is another thing, Mr. Editor, which demands particularly just now the attention of preachers and people. It has been [illegible] in your paper, but more [illegible]. I allude to the custom which prevails [illegible] of calling together the [illegible] and [illegible]—the gay and [illegible]—to make merry over the [illegible] of some battle-worn soldier boy. [illegible] to extract one drop from the [illegible] veteran's cup of [illegible]. But can parents find no [illegible] in thus [illegible] their affection for their children? Can they suppose [illegible] spending [illegible] provisions and [illegible]? I [illegible] time perhaps they will [illegible]. And is this to be [illegible] away to the senseless giggling which would [illegible] become a group of savages [illegible] some fallen foe, or a set of idiots mocking at the [illegible] misery, than men and women—I will not say Christians—whose country is [illegible]? With sisters and cousins and [illegible] persist in dragging the [illegible] soldier, who has been accustomed to think of death a [illegible] into the war [illegible]? Will they [illegible] God [illegible] them [illegible]? [illegible] home in the [illegible]? O, ye mothers [illegible] the baptismal [illegible] to contribute to the [illegible] O, ye sisters [illegible] ye [illegible] of the [illegible] come to dance to the sad [illegible] of Grant.

notes of a bleeding country's wail.—Cease to laugh while the widow and orphan of the land are heaving heavy sighs and shedding scalding tears. When your sons and brothers visit you hereafter and you would be merry with them, "sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody in your heart to the Lord;" and when they shall return to these scenes of blood and toil and death, they will come with a lighter heart and a brighter hope of meeting you, if not on earth, in yonder heaven where "God shall wipe all tears from their eyes." CARL.

Camp Ebenezer, April 20th.

For the Advocate.

Army Literature.

Mr. Editor: The importance of a pure, religious literature for soldiers reading, was never more apparent in any age of the world than at present.

Previous to the breaking out of this war, a spurious, trashy literature had obtained so extensively, that three fourths of the young men who now compose the body of our armies in the field, were, to a great extent, under its influence. They were, however, while at home, kept somewhat in check by the presence and counsels of older and wiser heads; while also, the grand instrumentalities of the gospel of Christ were brought to bear more directly upon them. Now that they are away from all healthful influences, and thrown as they must be, under the baleful influence of various temptations, having become hardened and careless by witnessing so many scenes of bloodshed and death, what must be the developments of their moral character, unless the Church supply them with a pure and holy religious literature? While your correspondent entertains no fears for the safety of the Church, he *trembles* for her temporal prosperity, if our armies are neglected in their moral training while upon the tented field. We will doubtless gain our political independence, if our people continue to be united and brave. But if the Church at home neglect her duties to moralize our veteran armies, we shall gain political freedom at the fearful cost of great spiritual and moral loss.

The ultimate aim and object of all government is to bring the conservation of the best interests of its subjects, and consequently, the production and diffusion of the greatest amount of happiness among its individual members, it would seem that the enlightened people of the South should awake to this all important subject—the diffusion of proper religious instruction amongst our soldiers.

But, sir, what are the facts in the case? A few organizations here and there in our land lift up their heads like light houses upon a dark and dangerous ocean, while all beyond is a dark and starless night. Few, indeed, are the Howards and Cliftons that stand forth heroically sublime, in sacrificing their purses and time in this godlike enterprise.

The Church should be aroused upon the subject. If our armies are evangelized, as they should be, and as the necessities of society at home and the requirements of religion demand that they *must* be, the *Church* must do it. In vain may we look for our generals and great men in State to infuse a healthy, moral tone into our soldiers. Too many of these have ignored the great, grand idea of an Almighty God. Their moral characters have been weighed in the balance of eternal truth, and have been found lamentably deficient. The tendency of moral character in the camps is toward an equilibrium with these great men. Upon the few religious men in our armies are thereby imposed higher and heavier responsibilities.

If the Church could but view its responsibilities during the present crisis, which are imposed by virtue of the subject now before us, we should soon see societies and organizations forming all over the South; and a greater zeal would soon be displayed by Christians at home in looking after the moral interests of our armies than has ever yet been manifested in supplying their physical wants.

May the Great Heal of the Church stir up the people to this benevolent enterprise; and may he soon terminate this terrible war, is the daily prayer of PHILO.

For the Advocate.

CAMP 22ND N C TROOPS
ORANGE C. H., VA. April, 1864

DEAR ADVOCATE:—Do you like to hear from the army? Yes! of course you do. Who is it that does not like to hear from "the boys" how they are getting along—what the news is &c.

But you don't like to have your sanctum *delayed* with letters, each expecting to come out in a few days in your columns to meet the "admiring eyes" of your readers? No? I know you do not. The writing "itch," not the least prominent among the diseases incident to the human family seems to have followed us even to the very face of the enemy. That lasting desire "to see one's name in print" is not easily to be got rid of.

Your welcome face appears to us regularly every week—changed of course at each succeeding appearance; but yet we always know you when you come. We look forward with anticipations of pleasure to your coming; for your good counsel and cheering words bring gladness to our hearts. We have no news. Every one seems to be quietly awaiting the grand onset of Grant.

You hear me boasting of what we will do—of annihilating them if they come—of turning them back upon Washington City and spreading terror and consternation through their works. Such stuff has long since been pandered with "the things that were," for talk of the coming campaign, and as you look back into the eyes of the men, and there you will read a prophecy that will tell you the coming fate of those Yankee legions if they attack us. We are *determined*. All of that puny submissive spirit, which I am sorry to say had for awhile taken possession of a part of our troops has disappeared, and a calm steady determination has taken its place. Gov Vance did much good by visiting us. Tell the loved ones at home when you see them again, that they need not fear. So long as there is one soldier left, so long will they have a champion to defend them.

ROWLEY.

For the Advocate.

A Vision of the Past.

My children! [illegible] How lovely it stood in the cool [illegible] as [illegible] and [illegible] before me now—[illegible] morning, [illegible] grace of [illegible] Church, the building [illegible] and sweet [illegible] in bloom.

[illegible] stands my father in the [illegible] with the Book [illegible] morning [illegible] standing [illegible] Methodist [illegible] [illegible] come—[illegible] happy greeting.

[illegible]

[illegible] Oh! [illegible] how [illegible]

[illegible] Oh! the days of childhood and angels of [illegible] that [illegible] this mournful [illegible] forgotten—[illegible] Nellie would sing her song [illegible] and ring for [illegible] and prayer [illegible] mourning [illegible] and strive each to [illegible] suppress our sorrow!—[illegible] not [illegible] appeal to [illegible] have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]