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CIRCULAR.

DON'T FORGET THE SOULS OF THE HEROES WHO ARE DEFENDING YOUR HOMES AND ALTARS.

W. R. HUNTER, the Colporteur who hands you this Circular, distributes Tracts regularly on *the Trains*. The first donation given him to aid in the work, was from four soldiers—one dollar each—an *unsolicited, free-will offering*. This gratifying incident suggested the thought that perhaps others would cheerfully assist in this good cause, and, hence, this method is adopted to say to the reader that donations will be gratefully received by the Colporteur to aid in distributing Tracts to the soldiers on the cars and in Camps, Hospitals, and to the sick and wounded returning home. With many of these it may be the last Heavenly Invitation they will receive this side the grave, and the winged messenger may fall into the hands of *your Son—your Brother—your Father—your Husband—your Friend*, as the "*Word in Season*"—or if read by others unknown to you on earth, it may be that

"Many a shining one in glory,
As the endless ages roll,
Will reveal the welcome story,
How by *you* Christ saved his soul!"

One Dollar sends out from 800 to 1,500 pages.

IMPORTANCE OF THE TRACT ENTERPRISE AMONG THE SOLDIERS.

J. Randolph Tucker, Esq., Attorney General of Virginia, says: "Our cause under God is committed to the keeping of our noble army. That cause rises above all merely secular objects; for it involves within it our religion in its purity, and in its successful dissemination throughout our whole Southern country. But shall the defenders of a free faith and of our hearthstones be without the word of God, and the means of personal salvation? The scheme of colportage answers the question. By it religion noiselessly walks through the camp, sowing the precious seed among the soldiers of the South. It enters the hospitals and speaks peace to the sick and the dying, and lifts the broken and wounded spirit to the hope which anchors the soul within the haven of eternal rest. The word of God—the Tract which conveys little by little portions of that Word to the mind of the soldier on duty; the book, or paper, or pamphlet which leads him to the fountain of all truth—these are the means to make the citizen in arms a better, because a Christian, soldier—and the Soldier when peace is restored, better citizen, because a Christian patriot.

The labors of the colporteur, however humble and simple, thus become the instruments of the largest benefit to the army, to the country and to the Kingdom of the Redeemer. To the sick, the wounded and the dying, stilling the noise and tumult of battle with the gentle whispers of a Saviour's love, his presence is an incalculable blessing. THE FRUITS OF HIS TOLL ARE PRESENTED IN A RICH HARVEST ALREADY PERCEPTIBLE ALL THROUGH THE ARMY. Let him go on in his discharge of duty; let men everywhere sustain him by counsel and by contribution, and he will see the work crowned with temporal benefits which can scarcely be estimated, and with eternal blessings which shall be full of glory.

[TURN OVER]

Please be particular to hand this Circular back to the Colporteur, on his return through the cars, to be used on another occasion.

LETTER FROM REV. J. A. RIDDICK.

WM. R. HUNTER, AND THE PETERSBURG TRACT SOCIETY.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PETERSBURG EXPRESS.]

STONY CREEK, SUSSEX, VA., Sept. 24, 1862.

The individual whose name is given at the head of this article, is more generally known as the "Children's Friend." Having lectured to thousands of children in different sections of our country, many of his Sabbath school and juvenile hearers would be pleased, no doubt, to learn what has become of their "Friend." We are pleased to inform them, that he is now engaged in a very good work as Tract distributor on the passenger trains between Petersburg and Weldon. This being the great line of travel between Richmond and the Southern States, the trains are usually crowded to their utmost capacity, many of whom are veteran soldiers going to or returning from the seat of war. Mr. Hunter, we understand, distributes tracts regularly on three trains, each day and, occasionally four, giving out to the passengers not less than five thousand four hundred pages daily. The Petersburg Tract Society during these troublous times, is like the tree of life spoken of in the Bible: whose leaves are for the healing of our afflicted nation. Mr. Hunter has taken hold of its trunk, and is shaking its rich branches for the benefit of the weary soldier as he thunders along this great high-way of travel, leaving friends and loved ones behind, and hastening forward to join in the great struggle for our independence. We are told, it is a beautiful spectacle to look in upon a long coach of travelers, all engaged in reading these little winged messengers, which have carried comfort to many an aching heart. Mr. H. receives contributions in aid of the cause, from those who are disposed to help forward this good enterprise, which has done so much good to our soldiers since the beginning of this war.

Mr. Hunter continues his labors in the Sunday school cause as opportunity may offer, and has recently delivered a series of lectures to parents and children at this place which resulted in the formation of a Sunday school and Bible class. He has lectured also in this neighborhood, at Loyd's church and Sappony, making a decided impression in behalf of the Sunday school cause. When this bloody war is over, we hope he will return more fully to his old vocation of lecturing to Sabbath school children, for which he is so well suited, and will be more extensively known as the "Children's Friend."

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE OF THE EVANGELICAL TRACT SOCIETY.

- Rev. A. W. MILLER, 1st Presbyterian Church,
- Rev. T. G. KEEN, 1st Baptist Church,
- Rev. C. J. GIBSON, 2d Episcopal Church,
- Rev. C. H. HALL, 1st Methodist Church.

No tract is published of which any member of the Committee disapproves.

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