

**MANNA IN THE CAMP; OR,
SELECTIONS FROM THE LETTERS
OF A MEDICAL OFFICER TO HIS
WIFE, DURING THE EASTERN
CAMPAIGN IN 1854-55**

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Manna in the Camp; Or, Selections from the Letters of a Medical Officer to His Wife, during the Eastern Campaign in 1854-55 by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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MANNA IN THE CAMP;

OR,

SELECTIONS FROM THE

Letters of a Medical Officer

TO HIS WIFE,

DURING THE EASTERN CAMPAIGN IN 1854-56.

"I will direct all his ways."—ISAIAH, xlv. 18.

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1856.

E. 117

P R E F A C E.

THE writer begs the readers of the following Letters to bear in remembrance the object of their publication — to do honour to that God who kept him as the apple of His eye during a campaign the most eventful in the history of the British nation.

PSALM XXIII.

The Lord is my Shepherd ;

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures :

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul :

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil ;

For Thou art with me :

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies :

Thou anointest my head with oil ;

My cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Manna in the Camp.

LETTER I.

"My times are in Thy hand,
Whatever they may be,
Pleasing or painful, dark or bright,
As best may seem to Thee."

March 1, 1854.

5 P.M. — I have just arrived. There is very much excitement here, consequent upon the order that has been received for us to prepare for active service in Turkey. Our God and ever-gracious Father will bring us blessings out of the deep trial of our first separation. I trust in the Lord you are sustained. We expect the *route* for Dublin in the course of ten days.

LETTER II.

March 2, 1854.

Thanks to the Lord for His love in giving us friends wherever we are. I visited Eliza — ; her bodily

strength is very much more reduced—her voice very feeble ; she cannot last long. I gave her the “Eleventh Hour” tract, which I hope in the Lord she will find profitable. Satan at this time will use every effort to tempt us, and bring us down. We have to do with One who is all-powerful, whose promises are, “YEA AND AMEN IN CHRIST JESUS.” May we be led of God’s Spirit in earnest prayer for each other day by day, and may we know more and more of our precious Saviour’s love. Our God will ever keep us, for He is a God of love, and His mercy endureth for ever.

LETTER III.

Dublin, March 10, 1854.

The sweet words of comfort you sent me this morning are from the Lord for our peace and strength ; may we continue to feed on them till the Lord brings us together in His own best time. He has manifested His faithfulness and loving-kindness in having permitted us to be together for the last few days. We are indeed to feel that we are His, and let Him do what seemeth Him good. Our favourite Psalm, the twenty-third, was the subject of my meditation at the railway station, as well as the words “I will never leave thee,” which I was applying to your own case. I trust you are not faint-hearted : be strong in the Lord, and be of good cheer. The Lord has already done wondrous things for us ; we can safely lie passive in His hands, remembering His own words—“It is I, be not afraid.”

LETTER IV.

"Fear not, for I am with thee."—Is. xliii. 5.

On board the steamer T—, off Liverpool,
March 18, 1854.

The steamer R— W—, having on board detachments of different regiments, left her moorings at the North Wall, Dublin, at a quarter before ten o'clock, P.M., on the 16th instant, and reached Liverpool the following morning, when the troops, consisting of 19 officers, 393 men, and 3 women, were transhipped to the vessel I am now on board of. The Lord give us an abundance of His grace to help in time of every need, that "as thy days so shall thy strength be." May we ever feel near to our sweet Jesus, and give up each other to Him. Do what you can for the poor women of the depôt. Rest fully confident that all things *work together* for our good, for we can see the Lord's hand graciously ordering in little things for us. And now I commit you to Him who is able to keep you from falling, who is able to sustain you amidst the confusion of this sinful world, who alone can fill up an empty space in the heart, and bind up its wounds. May the Lord direct you in all your ways. Farewell.

LETTER V.

March 21, 1854.

On our departure from Liverpool we were cheered

by the inhabitants, which was answered vociferously by the men on board, little thinking, perhaps, how few among them would be spared to return! What an evidence that the world rejoices in the things of this life! The Christian is not so received on his journey; no crown of rejoicing for him till the fullness of time—the restitution of all things in Christ.

The shaking of the vessel by the working of the screw hinders me writing with comfort; but as I am in expectation of being able to send a letter by the Gibraltar post, I am anxious to say now what I can about the voyage. The Lord has been very gracious, for He has enabled me to remember words of comfort during the time I was too sea-sick even to open my Bible. I was able, however, to open my heart in prayer, through the Lord's wondrous grace, so that I could rejoice in spirit. The precious text-book, "Daily Food for Christians," was only what I could manage to look at, and the words for each day afforded me food that very abundantly supplied my daily wants.

The weather was very rough while crossing the Bay of Biscay, and one night a storm of hail and rain. The first sight of land after leaving England was Cape Finisterre, coast of Spain, calling to my remembrance that sweet hymn—

"There is a land of pure delight."

The coast of Spain is high, uneven land, but not very bold. There are no rocks presenting themselves in the sea close to the shore, a common feature on the coasts of other countries.