

50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

REINFORCEMENTS

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There have been armies in the history of the world which under the leadership of some wise and daring man, have marched against their foes with bold unwavering steps, have scattered every force which opposed them, captured every position they desired, and accomplished the whole purpose of their expedition without needing to halt anywhere or receive any additions to the numbers with which they started.

But such cases have been rare. As a rule, even the largest hosts which have had serious opposition to encounter have had to pause again and again in their onward course that fresh men might come to take the place of fallen, or to swell the original numbers. And so it has been in the mightier achievements of peaceable organizations also. The great societies which have done so much to benefit mankind have almost invariably had to wait, and wait and wait again to gather fresh recruits before they have been able to succeed in sweeping away abuses, and establishing the good and true and righteous cause which they have pleaded.

And as for individuals, there never has been one, no, not the Son of Man Himself, who has been able to go through a "good fight," from beginning to end, without receiving fresh supplies of strength, failing which, the grand victory could not have been won.

The father of the faithful, standing alone with his giant faith in a midnight world, needs to be told not to fear, because his great Shield has come up, and will stay by to keep him safe. The "faithful servant," after humbling one great nation, and organizing another, must needs have seventy helpers to partake his burden, and after seeing his hosts fed day after day with angel's food, requires to be reassured that God can really manage to provide the ordinary meat they preferred for them. Ah, our very Prince, the Lord strong and mighty, half fainting from the agony of the last great decision must be ministered to by angel hands



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before He can enter upon the awful duel that wrung life and immortality for us from the jaws of death and hell.

and we must be reinforced again, and again, and again, both as a mission and as individuals, if we are to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand, and above all, if we are to sweep on in the path of glory and conquest

WE MUST HAVE HUMAN REINFORCEMENTS.

We live to seize, to capture, to utilize, as soldiers of our King, those who stand in the foremost lines of the rebel army. Converts we must have. Converts not only at the penitent form, but converts really got hold of, transformed into men and women of God, and daily used to help us in the battle, until they become well seasoned, valiant soldiers of the cross. At some stations new speakers, new praying people, new prominent workers of any kind are only too rare. And it is not for want of converts. But the old soldiers of two or three or more years standing are quite sufficient and still eager for all the operations carried on, and consequently later recruits are allowed to fall into the reserve, lines, until the fatal doctrine comes to be accepted that it is only a few who must presume to think they can do *much* for God. Hence there is little increase of work compared to what there might be, and the new recruits do not attain to anything like the boldness, skill, or power of the old.

No, no, no! this will not do. We must have fresh men and women to the very front. Let the veterans carry fire and sword farther into the enemy's ranks. Let them seek out and storm the hidden courts and alleys never yet regularly dealt with. Let them rejoice at times to stand behind and cheer on their young comrades. Where there have been two Sunday evening open-air bands, let there be ten. Where one open-air service every week-night, a daily one at noon, and there at night. Reserves to the front! What if they do seem a little awkward? What if they do tremble at first? Instead of blushing or grumbling, pray and believe for them; cheer and urge them on; keep them at it every day. Make soldiers of course some will fall. What does anyone expect in *war*. It is high time for the general to fall who cannot make up his mind to risk seeing his front men fall, or run, rather than give up the attempt to use them.

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Oh, just watch their eager, happy faces. See how they rush on till strength and voice are spent for the day. Ah, these are the sort of people that preached, or whatever you like to call it, on the Day of the Pentecost—people upon whom the Holy Ghost had but newly come. These are the men and women that turn the world upside down. The world considers, and so indeed do many professing Christians, that it is all upside down to allow such new-born babes to take any prominent part in the work. The world, devil, and they that are at ease in Zion, are sure to object most violently to reinforcements being brought really on to the field. But never mind, bring them out, bring them out, bring the out! And when anybody objects, send them to study our Commander's grand general orders—"Ye may all prophesy one by one;" and, "Let him that heareth say come."

But with all the human aid we can get we shall continually need to demand and receive far more from God.

WE MUST HAVE DIVINE REINFORCEMENT.

The happiest, the most daring, the most patient, are constantly coming to points where darkness, difficulty, sorrow, trial, exhaustion, or discouragement seems to sap their strength. They have fought hard an long. They are determined still to fight; but it seems as though but little progress were made. What is to be done? Only one of two things are possible, reinforcement or retreat. Which is it to be?

See that young officer galloping over hedge and ditch, beneath screaming shells and through a perfect rain of bullets, right up the steep hill whence the staff look on. What does it mean? "Reinforcements—must have them—at once—outnumbered—ten to one." "Can't be done—none to spare—must manage as you are."

He carries back the fatal message—and there is "heroism," hopeless, useless bloodshed, ruin, retreat, death, disgrace.

But we *never* get such answers if we really trust in God. No, no! Before the weary eyes can turn to the hills, or the faltering lips say "Lord, help," "our help cometh," not *will* come, *cometh*. Hallelujah! On again! On, on! Spend the last bit of strength. There will be more by that time. "As thy days." Amen! Amen!!



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Why do not all the people get reinforcement from God when they need it? They pray, and pray, and pray, and then the next thing you hear is that they have given up, or settled down into quietness. It cannot be the Lord's fault. Everybody knows that. All these people who resign or grow lukewarm, or fall away altogether, know they can get enough help to conquer and triumph gloriously. Why don't they get it?

Is it not because when they pray they always forget the last and best part—the believing part, which people generally mumble or drop their voices to—“*thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.*”

They spend hours over “Thy kingdom come,” and whole nights, if they are in earnest, over “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” and with their groaning and struggling over petitions, they get too tired to say with a firm voice and bounding heart, “*Thine is.*” And they come away unbelieving, and but little blessed, if any.

“If—thou—wilt believe—THOU—shalt—SEE—the salvation of God.” Grave-breaking, soul quickening, life-giving faith—that is it, and then we shall all be reinforced so as always everywhere to triumph in Christ Jesus. It's all up with the gates of hell!!! Tell everybody!

