



CHAPTER 6: Our Work Must Please God

My DEAR COMRADES,

In my last Letter, you will remember that I dwelt upon the importance of doing good Work. Having secured useful employment, I urged that you should strive to do it to the best of your ability. This applies to every class of Workers whose labour is of any real service to the community, however exalted or however humble that service may appear. Whether it be breaking stones, driving a horse, cleaning a house, commending a Corps, or any other kind of employment, if it is honourable and useful, strive to do it well.

Now I want to resume my theme. I was, when I closed my last Letter, trying to show that every man should, in addition to other motives, endeavour to do his daily work to please God. My argument is very simple, but I think it is sound. When a man ploughs a field, or makes a watch, or a door, or a coat, he ought to feel that there are four pairs of eyes upon him as he proceeds with his task, all of which he must strive to please. To begin with, –

1. There are his own eyes, and he ought to aim at pleasing them; and if they are right eyes, nothing but good, sound Work will do that. That alone will give him true pleasure at the moment, and afford him real satisfaction afterwards.
2. There are the eyes of the man who will use the watch, open the door, wear the coat, or reap the produce of the field. Now, the Workman ought to resolve that when his Work is done, it shall, as far as is possible, give those eyes satisfaction when they look upon it. For instance, if he has made a door, he should be able to say to himself: "This door shall be a pleasure to the man or the woman who has to open and shut it. I have made it well, so that it shall not fall to pieces, and I have made it to fit, so that it will keep out the draught, and open and shut with ease and quietness."
3. Then there are the eyes of his earthly master, if he has one, and most of us have at least one. I have a good many! But, whether one or many, we can strive to do our



Work so as to give satisfaction, if not real pleasure.

4. Then there are the eyes of his Master in Heaven.

He must before all else try to gratify them, and I have only just been saying that nothing short of good Work will do this. For this no scamping or hypocrisy in Every Day labour, any more than in Spiritual Work, will suffice. Making things to look fairly well on the outside, while hollow, or inferior, or rotten within, will not gain His approval. You will want Him to say "Well done," when He judges your Work at the Great White Throne, but you can have no just ground for entertaining any such expectation unless you are doing it well to-day.

You would utterly condemn me, if you thought that I engaged in my Work, in The Army, merely to make a good show, or for some personal profit, and did not care about what God thought of the matter. My Comrades, there are not two different standards of work – one for you and one for me. You must, therefore, be under the same obligation to do your Work in the house, or in the mine, or in the warehouse, or wherever the Providence of God has placed you, to please your Heavenly Master, as I am on the Platform, in the Council Chamber, or wherever my duty may call me.

But here another question arises. Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Master in the affairs of your daily life? If not, of course, this part of my argument will be thrown away; but if you do, then it will be the most powerful of all.

At the commencement of His Ministry, Jesus Christ announced that He was about to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth. By the Kingdom of Heaven He meant the Kingdom consisting of heavenly government, heavenly laws, heavenly obedience, heavenly power, heavenly love, heavenly joy. These, taken together, constitute the chief characteristics of this Kingdom, and instead of being confined, as it had been hitherto, to a handful of people in Jerusalem and Judea, it was to cover the whole earth.

Now the subjects of that Kingdom must accept Jesus Christ as their Master and Lord. No one can either come into that Kingdom or remain in it without compliance with this



law. You cannot be a Son without being a Servant.

But you have written yourselves down as His Servants, and said you will "no longer live unto yourselves," nor to please the world, but to do the will of Him who has redeemed you; that is, to please Him. Now, the Master's province, everybody knows, is, not only to choose the Work of His Servants, but to get it done, if possible, to His satisfaction.

He has appointed me my Work. He has arranged that I should direct the movements of this great Army, preach Salvation, write Letters for you to read, save as many sinners as I can, and strive to get my Soldiers safely landed on the Celestial Shore. Before all else, I must do this Work, as nearly as I can, to satisfy my Lord – and nothing short of the best Work I can produce will accomplish that.

And as with me so with you. He has chosen your Work, if you have put your life, into His hands, just as truly as He has chosen mine, although it may be of a different kind. I am writing this Letter in the train. I am a poor writer at the best. When I was a child my schoolmaster neglected to teach me to hold my pen properly. In this respect he did not do good Work, and I have had to suffer for it ever since. Still, I am doing my Work as well as I can, in order that it may profit you and please my Lord.