



The
William Booth
Collection

THE GENERAL'S LETTERS

GIANT KILLING – WHERE ARE THE DAVIDS?

From the "War Cry," July 18th, 1885.

MY DEAR COMRADES,

This is a wonderful age for the praising up of the noble men of former generations who have gone in neck or nothing for the Salvation of their fellows. There is any amount of sepulchre building, which is very well as far as it goes; but, unfortunately, it doesn't go very far. Hero-worship is very admirable in heroes, or if it leads to the creation of heroes, but otherwise it is a very windy and unsatisfactory thing.

Supposing the circumstances of the army of Israel under Saul, facing the Philistines with the giant swaggering on the opposite hillside could have been repeated in after days, with just this difference, that instead of the David of that day going forth to slay Goliath, the Philistines had fallen upon the Israelitish army, and been busily engaged in slaying them, while all the time the king and his captains had been boasting in their tents about the wonderful David of former times, telling the story over and over again, we should have pronounced it supremely ridiculous as well as inexpressibly cowardly.

But this seems to represent very largely the attitude of the Christians of the present day with respect to the giant evils which are swaggering about in the very heart of Christendom, defying every force, moral and spiritual, human and divine, making speeches and singing songs in praise of the wonderful deeds of the godly heroes of bygone ages.

All this is very well for the saints, but why don't they go and do likewise? They praise the heroes of old, but why don't they do the same heroic deeds? Why don't they go out and fight? And when they do fight, why don't they go on to win the giant's head and rout the enemy all along the line?

My comrades, here is this

GIANT LUST!



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He needs no description at our hands. His LOATH-SOMENESS and CRUELTY cannot be described in print or in any other way, but enough is known and seen and heard of him to fill our whole being with horror and dread.

See how shamelessly he stands forth in our midst, devouring our innocent children and bringing down to the dust the mighty men of every rank and station! If the veil that covers the secret places of society were only lifted, O God! what agonizing scenes would be witnessed, what heart-breaking stories would be shrieked out! His victims are innumerable and his slimy trail is everywhere. He defiles alike the armies of Church and State – God and man. O Jesus Christ! to think that 1800 years have passed since Thy pure precepts were spoken, and Thy Blood spilt to empower Thy people carry them into practice, and that Thy followers so cheerfully laid down their lives to begin the task of writing them on the hearts and histories of men! and to think that this GIANT LUST, surrounded by innumerable armies of whore-mongers and adulterers and harlots still struts forth – the most successful scourge (second only to intoxicating drink) that desolates and damns poor humanity!

Well may our hearts fail us. Here is not only earthly misery, but the mouth of hell gaping wide – and swallowing up its millions, and increasing in power and influence every day. This giant, unless dealt with, and that with a strong band, will soon be beyond control. This giant has played a prominent part in the destruction of some of the most civilized and powerful nations of the past; indeed he may be said to have been their destroyer, and, unless he is slain or crippled, he will destroy this nation also.

He must be dealt with. Who will attempt the task? "There are difficulties in dealing with him!" do you say? Giant-killing must always be difficult business.

"Can't do it all at once"? Perhaps not; perhaps only accomplish what seems very little; but no man or woman knows what God Almighty is going to do by them in giant killing when they put themselves unreservedly into His hands.



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Do you ask me, "What can be done?" "Be a David!" I answer. You have often admired him and secretly wished you had his chance. It is yours this moment, just as good and big an opportunity as he had.

Have you got pluck enough? Do you answer "Yes!"? Very good. I'll give you a hint or two how to proceed.

1. *Have a good look at the giant.* Take in his dimensions. Look him up and down and take a fair glance at the havoc he has already wrought. Get your heart filled with the subject, and when you have done a good deal of praying, and lost a little sleep, and made up your mind to kill, if you are killed in the killing, you will be ready to do something.

2. *Go in for his destruction.* No state permission, or "supervision," mind, or "regulation," or "free trade," or "prohibition" will be enough. Although there may be distinctions between vice and crime in human laws, both are alike damned by the law you bow down to. You must strike deeper than all these. The infamous appetite must be destroyed. Yes, the very appetite for all illicit and unlawful gratification of the passions must be rooted out. You must deal with the whoremongers and adulterers and self-abusers as you would do with the thief and the drunkard – every one of them must be saved from the propensity to the unlawful gratification of desire. Tell them they must have this uttermost Salvation or be damned both for time and eternity. Thank God, THERE IS DELIVERANCE!

Nothing but deliverance will serve. Talk about "good advice," or "restraint," or "moderation"! Restrain the waves of the Atlantic. Moderate the fires of a volcano, or curb the heaving throes of an earthquake by any human counsels or devices, and then you can try your power on these lurid flames of loosened lust.

Bind him up with human considerations, and the monster will but break loose, and that at unexpected moments, and with powers for evil increased and expanded by the momentary restraint.



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3. *Attack him.* Do as David did. Go straight at him. Find him out. That is, find the poor victims out. Pour the light in. Ignorance is the strength of evil; destroy it with the truth. Reveal the consequences of sin. Show how it brings rottenness in the bones and mourning at the last. The poor deluded creatures – especially the youthful ones, of both sexes – are unaware of the short race of so-called pleasure they have to run, and of the blackness and darkness of the abyss into which they must inevitably fall.

Show them that lust, when it is finished, bringeth forth DEATH, and that its steps take hold on hell!

Here is an opportunity for our beloved women. Why should not they go on to the walks of infamy, where this Black Army nightly parades, and one by one put their arms round the poor friendless, loveless girls and invite them to their houses, if only for a friendly talk?

Why should they not in little companies invade the houses where the infernal traffic is carried on? If they did nothing else they might cry to God for the inmates in the passage, and if that opportunity be refused them, have a prayer-meeting on the doorstep.

4. *Create hope.* If presumption has much to do with the commencement of this sin, it is often continued with and always completed in despair. "How can we ever be delivered?" is its helpless cry. Oh, we must go to these despairing souls and inspire them with confidence. Tell them over and over again that Jesus lives to save. Make them feel that there is certain deliverance. Our God can break the fetters and open the prison doors and let even these bond-slaves of the devil go free.

5. *We must love them.* Many have never known pure love. To such it will be a ravishing novelty. Some have known it, but gone away from it into a far country, never expecting to see it any more. Oh, take it to them again. In some of the London brothels it is a rule never to allow the word mother to be mentioned. Try the spell of that musical word on the first poor girl you meet, and go further by telling her you will be as a mother to her if she will let you. You will conquer



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with such a simple weapon as surely as David did with his sling and stones. Take them the love of God wrapped up in the love of man.

6. *Proclaim deliverance.* Many sinners are captured by the thought of the forgiveness of sins. Multitudes will be won by the tidings that they can get away from the power of their lusts and the degrading misery of their wretched outcast lives.

7. *Go to them.* Put your hand on them. Men do little or no good by calling out some good talk at a distance, or shouting some message of mercy through the speaking trumpet of a hired proxy. Go to them yourself. Go in ten thousand different forms. Keep on going; never mind if they do break down in their first or second or third attempt to reform and be good. Keep on!

A similar house to that described in my last letter should be established in every large town and city where The Army is established.

In connection with every Corps there must be a Sergeant or Sergeants trained and set apart specially for the same business; so that it shall come to be known that at every Salvation Army Barracks there is a woman full of love and possessing some information on the subject, prepared to help the fallen and friendless creatures who may require it.

Let us think and pray about this serious subject, and by all means let us act.

Yours, living only to save,

WILLIAM BOOTH.
July 13th, 1885.