

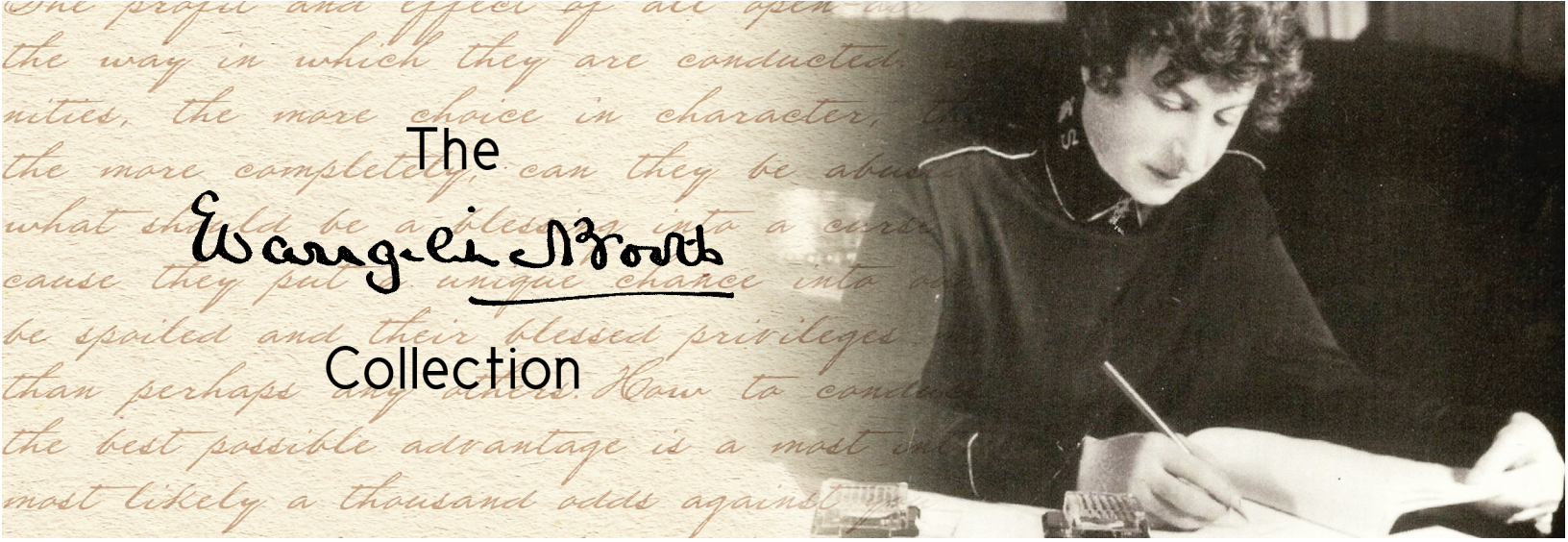
THE "FULL CORN".

"First the Corn, then the Ear, then the Full Corn on the Ear."

It is a matter of cause and effect over again! "First the corn", But before that the seed-planting, and prior to that the tilling of the soil, and if necessary the irrigating arrangements and the thousand and one details of the rancher's life if a bumper crop of "full corn" is desired — and it always is! That is one great reason why we Salvationists can deal with such a subject in a sympathetic and intelligent spirit; we are always anxious to secure a full crop, both at the penitent form on the Soldier's Roll and in our annual appeals grouped under the heading of "Special Efforts." Indeed, we not only desire, but have become accustomed to reaping an excellent harvest in these important matters, so vitally necessary to our success and to the advance of our beloved work. And I give you my belief unequivocally that the achievements, both spiritual and material, of this year's Harvest Festival celebration will not only do credit to the splendid record of the past but place a large step in the van of all similar efforts. This is the "Full corn" I am praying and believing for.

"FIRST THE CORN"

The rounded, ripened, golden grain does not spring direct from the ground. "First the ear." Before that the hours and days of most careful and prayerful preparation. In the fields of secular husbandry there may be skilled agricultural lists who think they can get along without prayer and dependence upon divine support; but I doubt it, as such men get, in their daily pursuits, so close to the marvels of nature that it seems to me an utter impossibility not to regard with grateful reverence the benign hand that controls every smallest piece of nature's wonderful mechanism. I don't even read, whether they admitted or not, they are dependent upon God's sunshine, God's beautiful atmosphere, God's warm, life-giving earth and the water that helps the seed to germinate and the tender shoots to unfold. Men's genius may reinforce Heaven's beneficence, but it cannot supplant it. Man can dig irrigation ditches, but God supplies the water that runs therein; man's ingenuity may produce fertilizers that increase the producing power of the soil, but God gives the soil itself as well as the quickening of mind that leads man to more potently prepare the ground for cultivation.



Oh, my comrades, we cannot do without God! "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

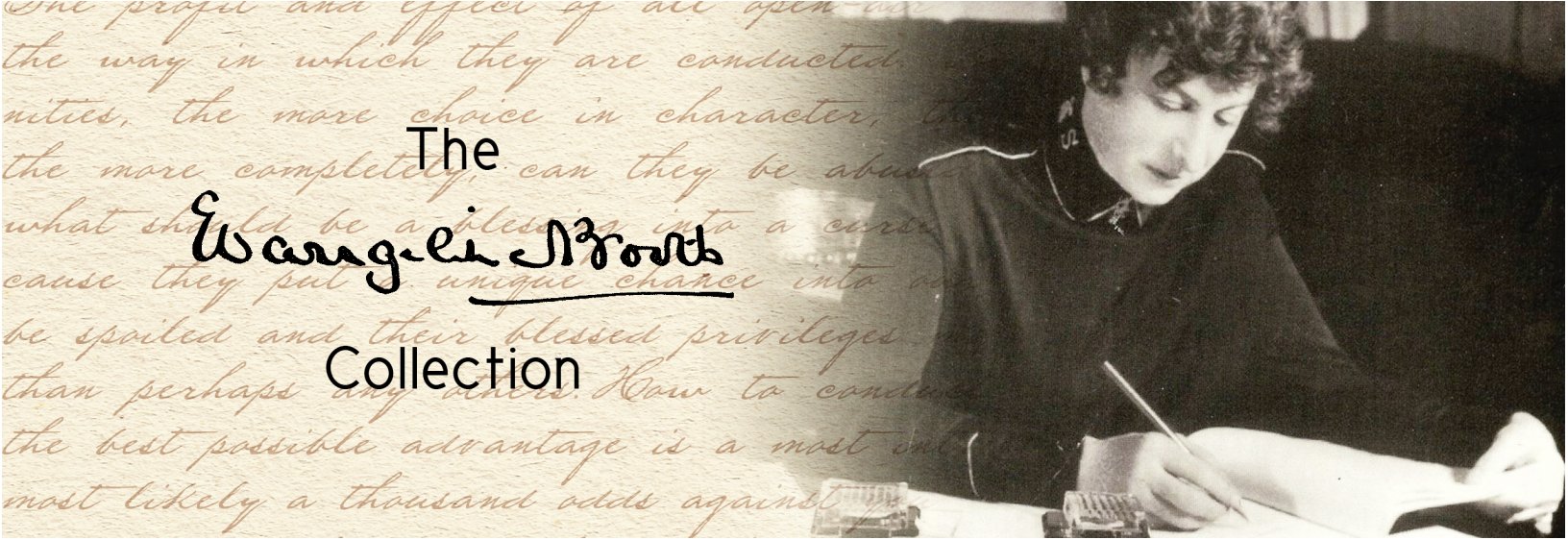
We specially need His help with such an effort as the Harvest Festival, which must be conceived in a spirit of prayerfulness and devotion — prayer and faith — that the soul harvest may in every way equal the material returns, and that both may be fully worthy of our mighty opportunity and the glorious Flag under which it is our privilege to fight.

But dependence upon divinity must not for a moment be taken as a ground for dilatoriness on our own part. The Heavenly Father has created us with brains to plan, hands to fashion, feet to run, impulses to set emotion, courage to overcome obstacles, faith to withstand temptation and win the victory. The mental and physical machinery, well-oiled by the grace of God and each part in harmony with the others is the system of a well ordered and consecrated life, must be driven full speed to achieve adequate results and produce the "full corn in the ear" without which God forbid we should for a moment be satisfied.

OUR BEST WORK

I will not again make use of the old axiom, "This and better will do", excellent as it is. In this great country of magnificent accomplishment and still more magnificent possibility, we surely ought to go a little ahead of this, and make our Harvest Festival celebration this year such a paragon of mighty achievement that it will leave little if any room for "doing better". In brief, let us each one — officer, soldier, recruit, convert, friend, — yes enemy. If you like — reach the full limit of our best and then see if we can't do a bit more by way of interest on the investment.

That is the way to succeed! American history comes with the biographical records of men — nearly all of whom sprang from the ordinary walks of life — who with dogged determination and grit that would brook no defeat have forced their way to the front rank of commerce, science, art and letters. This is what, to a great extent, has made America what it is. A determined will is a mighty asset. We have proved it so in The Salvation Army over and over again, from the very time when my honored father, the General, with a determination born of heaven, creating its



own dauntless courage, dropped the seed-corn of the movement in the East End of London, the abundant harvest of which we are reaping all over the world today. My comrades, are you really DETERMINED TO WIN an exceptionally great Harvest Festival victory? If so, success is more than half assured.

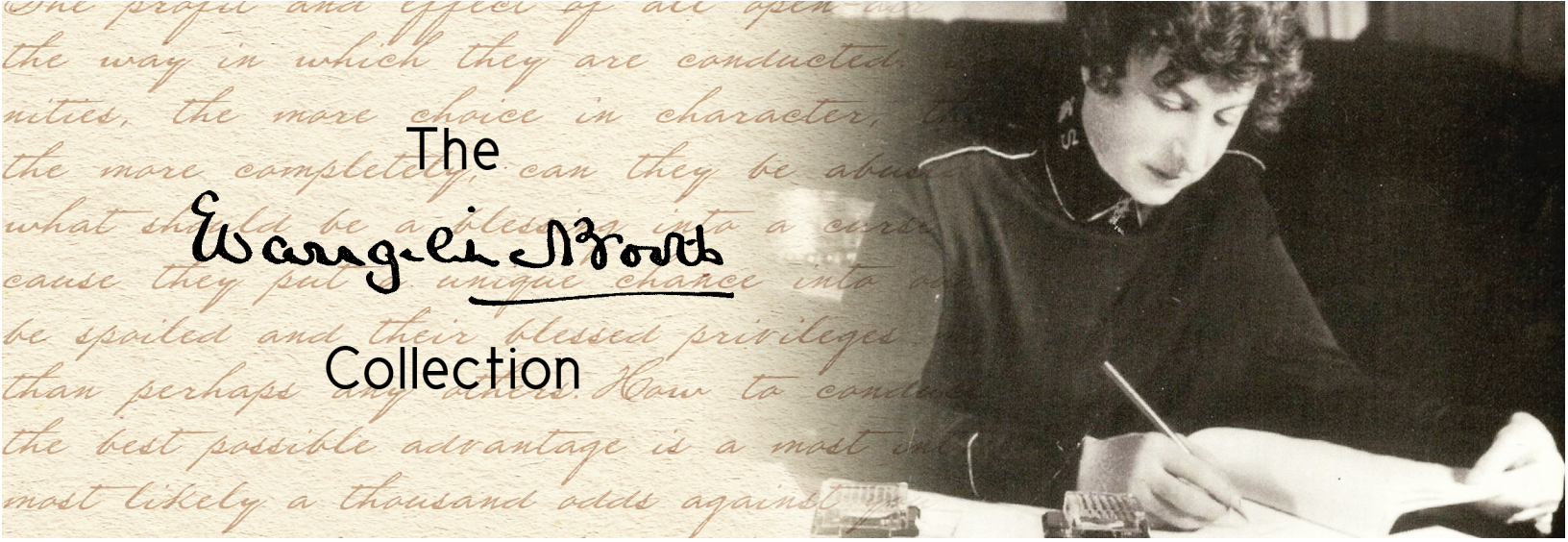
A LESSON FROM TOGO

I may draw an illustration from the life of a very distinguished visitor to America — the Japanese Admiral, Togo, hero of the Russo-Japanese war. It is related that Togo is descended from the old feudal chiefs of Japan, and is a member of the samurai — the hereditary chieftains or warlords of Nippon. When he was appointed by his Emperor to command the Japanese fleet that was to annihilate the enemy, he called the commanders of the various warships to his cabin, and, without speaking the word, drew the attention of each to a naked dagger hanging up on the wall. One by one they looked, nodded and passed out. This signified that they had taken the silent oath of the samurai — that they would conquer the enemy, or, failing that, sacrifice themselves. What could stand up before such determination?

"You are quoting an extreme case," you may say. Perhaps I am; I certainly do not want people who fail in their pursuits to commit suicide; On the other hand, in The Salvation Army we are saving thousands of such from self-destruction every year; but it shows what a determined spirit can accomplish, and puts me in mind of the Salvation Army officer who, on being sent to a particularly godless town, declared with his whole heart, "I will do something for God in this place, or leave my bones in yonder cemetery." The officer accomplished his work, as did Togo and his men. A determined will almost always brings success. See if it is not so in your case.

FEARFUL SIN HARVESTS

I wish I had time to bring to your attention the fearful success of the harvest of sin. This poisoned crop is a full one. Crime, drink, vice, worldliness, unbelief — crops abundant, crops appalling, crops devastating. Killing and damning those who have anything whatever to do with them. I have just received from the officials of the Chicago Vice Commission the reports of their recent investigation, and I cannot bring myself to write of the horrors laid bare; they come to one like a



blast from the inferno. And if the moral conditions in Chicago are not any worse than those in other large cities, what a staggering fact confronts us as we visualize the situation! What a terrible, blighting, withering harvest, sown by the devil and reaped by his dupes! Is this not another reason — and oh, how could there be a stronger or more appealing one? — for determination, on our own part, my beloved comrades?

I fully believe, if you will let me say so in closing, that God will largely reward us or condemn us according to our sincerity of purpose. We cannot surely expect him to honor anything that in the smallest way resembles laxity or dilatoriness! He is worthy of our best, or nothing at all! Shall he not have it? — He, the suffering in sad Gethsemane, the victim of dark Calvary, the blessed Lord of light and glory, who conquered death, led captivity captive and opened the door of Heaven to all who would believe. SURELY HE IS WORTHY!

(September 16, 1911)