

Family Circle.

Lean on Jesus.

By Rev. M. Shurtleigh.

I. Faint and weary, near to perish, Weak and helpless soul, thou art; Of thyself thou canst not flee From the fits surrounding thee; In the fight with earth and sin, Sluggish thou canst never win; Upward look, and ever cherish Every promise in thine heart.

II. Christian, lean thy head securely On thy blessed Saviour's breast; He will give thee peace of heart; He will light and strengthen art; So, beneath his gracious eye, He will all thy want supply; He will keep and comfort surely, He will give thee joy and rest.

"I was a Hungry."

It was sleeting fast. Evening was falling. The streets were almost deserted. Suddenly a voice at my elbow said, "I am not fit for work, and I have eaten nothing to-day."

I looked at the speaker. He was an able-bodied man, but had lost both arms by amputation; he was evidently a discharged soldier. He was pale, too, as if from recent sickness, or from scanty food. He had on an old threadbare coat.

My first impulse was to give him something. But my coat was buttoned tight; I could not easily unbutton it and continue to hold my umbrella and book; and to crown all, the street car, for which I had been waiting, at that moment came up.

"I have nothing to-day," I said, turning from the man and beckoning to the driver.

I heard a sigh, as I turned, and was on the point of reconsidering my decision, but I reflected that if I missed this car, I should have to wait ten minutes in the road. "Besides," I said to myself, "somebody else will be sure to give him something."

But my heart smote me, when, on looking after the man, I saw him go sadly down the street with bent head. Once I thought of stopping the car, overtaking the man, and giving him half a dollar.

But while I hesitated, the car passed the corner, and he was out of sight. It was too late.

I did not eat my dinner that day with the usual appetite. I could not get that way face out of my mind. At times the visuals seemed to choke me. What if he really was starving, and no one would help him?

All through the evening the man's look haunted me. In vain my little daughter, seeing me abstracted, sang her sweetest ballads. In vain my wife sought to cheer me up as she said, "I even dreamed of the man. If I had known where to find him, I would have gone the next day, to satisfy myself that he had received assistance."

But the impression gradually wore off.—There is so much suffering now in great cities, that almost every one becomes hardened to it. I persuaded myself finally that the man had been helped by others. "There are so many societies to aid soldiers," I said. It was uncomfortable to think otherwise.

One morning, about four days after the interview, my wife was reading the paper, when she suddenly laid it down, and cried, "How shocking!"

I do not know how it was, but I felt a sudden chill. I thought instantly of that man's wan face. But I said carelessly, as I broke my egg,

"What is it, my dear?" "O! such a horrid story. A discharged soldier, his wife and two children, dying of starvation. At least the wife is dead, and one of the children not expected to live. None have had any thing to eat in four days.—They were found in an old out house. The husband is said to have lost both arms at Gettysburg."

My hand trembled so much, that long before my wife finished, I had been compelled to lay down my egg unopened. She was looking at the paper, and did not see me.

I had no appetite after that. I rose immediately, and hastened down town, for I was sure this was the man whose petition I had rejected.

I went straight to see him. I had the paper in my pocket, and it directed me to the miserable out-house, where the sufferers had been found.

Quite a crowd had been collected outside. But a policeman at the door permitted no one to go in. He knew me, however, and on my expressing my wish, allowed me to enter.

A sheet, furnished by some poor neighbor, was spread over a still, waxen face in the corner; a little girl was sobbing beside it; and a man bowed with grief sat at the foot. At the sound of my footsteps he looked up. It was the same wan face I had repelled at the corner of the street.

Since that day I have never turned away from old or young who has asked alms.—Better give to a thousand who are unworthy, than refuse one that is really in need.

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