

I. Some people think of the situation of an individual Christian worker in this age as similar to that of a private soldier in the 1914-1918 war. This man knew that his friends were behind him and that the enemy was before him. He knew that it was up to him to kill as many of the enemy as he could and to keep from being killed himself, but that was about all he knew about the conduct of the war. A general was back in a busy room, with maps all over the tables ~~and~~ scattered ~~throughout~~ throughout the room. This general was rushing from one end of the room to the other, moving little flags here and there, making marks and plans that he would move this regiment forward in order to divert attention from another place where he wished to make a main assault. He would sacrifice two thousand men in order that the enemy while killing these men would get their attention diverted from another place at which he wished to make an attack. He had his plans worked out in considerable detail, and the strategists of the two sides fought back and forth, with the privates as mere pawns for a period of years. The individual in the trenches knew nothing about all this. He had no right to go forward except when ordered to. The order might come for him to retreat. He might think it was a strategic retreat made for a definite strategic purpose. On the other hand, it might be because it was necessary on account of overwhelming force to retreat at that place. He was given an order to move forward. It might be the beginning of a great push that would drive the enemy out of his country. On the other hand, it might be that he was to be sacrificed for the great strategic purpose which was in the mind of the general. He had no right to use his intelligence or his ideas. All that he was to do was to act when the order was given. He used his hands to shoot, to wash clothes, but his part in the whole general plan was absolutely unknown to him.