

Northfield Oct 4th - 9
Lieut. S. L. Knigsbury
Comrade:

Enclosed find communication from Mrs E. L. Armstrong. It appeared to me a rather singular request, at this late day, however, it would please the family of our grand Old Chaplain, to have some notice taken of it. As you are familiar with the usages of our State Historical Society, you will be governed by your own judgment as to the proper thing to do.
Yours in F. C. L.
J. C. Cooper

Report of the Chaplain of the
8th Regt. Minnesota Vols for the
month of May, 1864.

Indian Expeditionary Force,
Camp near Fort Ridgely. June 3^d 1864.

To the Adjutant General. U. S. A. Washington D.C.

1780EG
The General Order No 158, was received
by me, a little more than a week ago, while on our
march to this place. Section 3^d of this order requires
me to make a monthly report of the moral condition
and general history of my Regiment. The entire
Regiment is now for the first time together,
I have no means of comparing it with other
Regiments from extensive observation, as we have
been associated with other portions of the army,
only to a limited extent. But my impression is,
that the moral character of the 8th Minnesota
is above the average. A large proportion of the
Regiment are men with families, respectable
mechanics and farmers, industrious men of
good principle, who feel that they have a character
to sustain, and who enlisted from a conviction

Council Grove Kan.
Sept 29. /69

Mr Cooper.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed
report given by Chaplain Armsby
of the 8th Minnesota Vol in 1864
I thought would be interesting to
you as a member of the 8th M. V
& then we would be pleased to
have it go to the Historical Society
of Minnesota

Mrs Alice Armsby Pearson once
of Northfield suggested your name
She is visiting Council Grove
& will soon return to her home in Ober-
lin Ohio. With kindest regards
Mrs E. L. Armsby

ENCLOSURE

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ENCLOSURE

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

DAKOTA CONFLICT OF 1862 MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTIONS
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

043

2) that it was a duty which they owed to their country, in this time of national peril.

The drinking of intoxicating liquors is understood to be the most prevalent and mischievous vice in our armies.

There has been too much of this in our Regiment, as in my judgment there is every where, where intoxicating liquor is used as a beverage at all. But I believe there is comparatively little intemperate drinking in the 8th Minnesota. Many abstain entirely. During my sixteen months connection with the Regiment, I have rarely seen any one connected with it intoxicated.

Profanity is the vice most common and apparent, as I presume it is with soldiers everywhere. It does not appear to be remembered, that soldiers contract peculiar guilt by indulging in this vice. They are bound by a solemn oath not to swear profanely. They have solemnly sworn to obey all lawful orders of their superiors and to comply with the requirements of the army regulations. The President the command in chief of our armies has issued a general order warning against profanity. Profane swearing is prohibited by the articles of war. And yet men, who would I believe sooner part with their right hands

3) than swear to a falsehood in a court of justice, habitually violate this oath not to indulge in profanity. Even commissioned Officers do this, thus setting to their inferiors an example of direct disobedience to lawful orders. If it could only be fairly presented to their minds, that profanity on the part of soldiers is a species of perjury. I think that aside from all religious considerations, a sense of honor and a common regard to the binding nature of an oath would never permit them to use profane language. The gentlemanly feeling also, which never allows one to do that which is offensive to those associated with him, unless impelled to it by a sense of duty, if they would only stop to think—must, it would seem, prevent them from using language which grates so harshly on the ears of all who reverence God. I do not think there are ten men in the Regiment who would be profane in the presence of ladies. The roughest, are gentle men, in refined female society. I must bear testimony to the uniform kindness and respect, with which I have been treated by Officers and Privates alike since my connection with the Regiment. From my experience, I conclude it is the characteristic of soldiers to be generous and obliging. The health of the 8th Regiment has always been good. They have never left the state & the climate of Minnesota is proverbially salubrious. 8th Regiment in camp at Fort Snelling

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