



Bandmaster John Kichenside, Highgate.

"Army made," "every inch a musician," and "zealous for God and The Army," are all phrases applicable to Bandmaster J.H. Kichenside, the well known leader of the Highgate Band.

In his youth he had a hard struggle, but The Army helped him, as he grew up he found friends and a wife within The Army Ranks, and today nothing pleases him better than to recommend The Army, in its fullness of help and blessing, to young people on the threshold of their active days.

His portrait is characteristic.

He is essentially an "upright man," keen about business, and determinate, that so far as in him lies, no one connected with him shall fall short of the standard God has set up for them.

At the same time, the love of music, coupled with the love of God, makes him ready to help as well as criticize.

On many a platform he has spoken of his early days, when his widowed mother looked to him, and not in vain, for comfort and support.

Converted as a junior at Chalk Farm, he had Salvation to help him in the struggle for "home" and subsequent position.

He was not a "little Lord Fauntleroy," but a very "human" youth, whose early struggles made for that assertiveness which The Army guided aright.

His Army service began as a messenger at Headquarters, and his musical abilities found scope first in the Junior Staff Band and then in the Home Office Band.

He also played in the Highgate Band, and as his heart opened to the good influences around him he began to see "the beauty of holiness."

Presently the way was opened for a commercial career, and the fatherless lad grew into the trusted employee of one of the leading London firms of builders and contractors.

With improved circumstances his zeal and knowledge for God and The Army increased, and in 1897 he became Bandmaster of the Corps where he has seen so many grow up to usefulness in the Kingdom.

He was married in 1900, under the Flag, by commissioner Nicol, and Mrs. Kichenside is a true helpmeet to her husband.

To hear these comrades play a cornet and piano duet is "an inspiration."

Our comrade's position is an important one, for every Salvationist knows that a great deal is expected from the Highgate Band, and to control forty men,, though Salvationists, is no light task for a Bandmaster.

Our comrade takes his duties very seriously, and seldom leaves anything which he can do himself to others.

The Deputy-Bandmaster has very little to do in the way of conducting, the correspondence is nearly all attended to by the Bandmaster, and if one of the Bandsmen is absent he is sure to receive a letter of inquiry or a personal visit from Brother Kichenside within twenty-four hours of his noticing it.

Very keen about the position and due recognition of the Band, the Bandmaster does his utmost to keep them "up to concert pitch," musically and spiritually.

Yet there is nothing of the martinet about him, and his fearlessness is all part of his zeal.

"The result is," writes a correspondent, "that from cornet to bass, the whole forty revere their Bandmaster."

Fond of music for its own sake, Bandmaster Kitchenside never spares himself the effort of study.

He always comes fully prepared to a practice, and can teach as well as study.

At Corps meetings he is quick to suit the theme to the subject in hand, or, in other words, to "feel the pulse of the meeting."

By no means of a robust constitution he fights on through all hours and weathers, and while knee-drill sees him praying for souls, the wind-up finds him rejoicing over sinners at the penitent-form.

Apart from this he has a painstaking delight in arranging programs for festivals, going into the minutest detail, and working it all out to a nicety.

On The Salvation Army Band Festival platform he is "all ears, eyes, and concentrated energy."

Finally, we may ass that although not "an orator," Bandmaster Kichenside is never at a loss for "these men behind me whose great object is to get you, through their playing, to give your hearts to God, or if you have done so, to serve Him better."

There are some who love him best when his voice melts into grateful tenderness as he speaks of the God Who preserved the fatherless and the widow, Who keeps and blesses both today, and longs to put His loving arms around the wanderer, listening with tear dimmed eyes to the Highgate Bandmaster. (The Bandsman and Songster, May 18, 1907)