



Captain Robert McAnally, Melbourne, Australia.

The winner of the prize march.

The Name of the Australian Officer who this week forms the subject of our character sketch is familiar throughout The Army world as the winner of the Prize March, 1907.

He is a fine specimen of The Army musician, "born and bred" a Salvationist, coming up from the Juniors, finding his talents a stepping-stone to Army service, and gladly dedicating them in their entirety to the glory of God and the saving of souls.

One who knows him well writes: "He has "musician" written in every line of his strong countenance. You cannot look at him without seeing that he is a musical enthusiast.'

Best of all, his countenance also bears the happy expression of a Salvation Army Officer rejoicing in his appointed work.

Our comrade was born in Sydney, the capital city of New South Wales, and as a Junior was attached to the Leichardt Corps.

Sydney is a very musical city, and there are all sorts of associations for furthering its study amongst those who desire to take it seriously.

Undoubtedly, also, there are many temptations in Sydney for a young fellow whose talents enable him to minister to the pleasure of others.

Situated on the shores of the most beautiful bay in the world, where rhododendrons bloom down to the water's edge, and the soft winds rustle amongst waving palms.

Sydney, in spite of all its go-ahead character, is also a pleasure-loving place.

The soft, luxurious climate encourages open-air festivals, dances kept up far into the night, and a lover of the lighter side of life.

With all these things music has much to do, and it would have been quite easy for young McAnally to have "done well for himself" from a worldly point of view by throwing his talents into the service of the gaiety of his native city.

But The Army had inspired him with a higher ideal of life, and a better sense of responsibility to God for the right use of the talents entrusted to him.

At a very early age he had been acquired a mastery of music, but he was also a consistent, right-living, God-honoring Soldier of the Corps, and his great desire was to see the Band as good as instruction could make it.

Outside, he gave lessons in music where he could do it consistently with his Salvationism, but presently the call to the Work grew so clear, and the way was so opened to our comrade, that he gave himself to The Army.

His talents were so obviously musical, that he has since been engaged in developing the musical side of our Australian Work, all of course to one end, viz., the glorification of God and the spread of the Kingdom.

Given the rank of Captain, our comrade became leader of the Australian travelling Band, which improved rapidly under his able tuition.

At present he is on the Musical Staff at Headquarters, and this augurs well for the future of our Bands in Australia.

Captain McAnally will spare no pains to help bring them to that state of efficiency which has done so much to make The Salvation Army Bands at home the power they are "for God and souls."

That he should have written a Prize March is perhaps a great surprise to his friends.

In Australia it was thought his genius lay more particularly in the direction of selections.

He has shown, however, that in both these branches of Army music he is a competent writer.

Captain McAnally is a thorough Salvationist, and from a religious standpoint knows little of anything else but The Army in which he was brought up.

He is married, and his wife is a clever pianist.

A descriptive analysis of the Prize March was given in No.1 of "The Bandsman and Songster."

The march is a brilliant, showy piece, and will tax the soprano, solo, and first cornet, as well as the baritone and euphonium players of our best Bands. (The Bandsman and Songster, May 4, 1907)

Captain Robert McAnally.

Captain Robt. McAnally, the composer of the winning prize march in the 1906 competition, only had one day at his disposal for arranging the piece.

The march was therefore composed, scored, all necessary parts written out, and posted from Melbourne in that one day! (The Bandsman and Songster, June 1, 1907)