

THE TIME SPIRIT.

Oh, men and women, do not be afraid of changes. Remember that changes have their place and their function. Do not allow them to carry you off your feet, and by every change imagine that religion has been swept away. Sometimes when you look over a valley as I have when it has been inundated you lost sight of the rivers. The banks have overflowed and the torrents sweep down and you see nothing but a mass of water. Then you say, "Dear me, dear me! there are no more rivers!" Let me tell you, the rivers are flowing on just the same beneath that over-spreading flood of water. So it is with truth to-day. The floods have come down. The people wring their hands. The river of Sanctification is gone. The river of Justification is gone. All these rivers are gone, they say. Beloved, none of these are gone. The time spirit has rolled over them and obscured them. In a little while the floods will roll back again, and the grand old rivers will continue their course on to eternity. Ah, young men and women, how I envy you! For it is your work to keep the church steady in its mission amidst the changes of the time spirit.

When I was in Florence in 1883, there was a great controversy in the city. I saw men and women and the boys and girls voting. I inquired, "Why are these people voting?" "Ah," was the answer, "you see this marvelous campania? You notice that the facade has not been finished and the people are voting, whether to finish it in the basilical style or in the dromical." "And why do you allow working men and children to vote how to finish so great a building as the Duomo?" "Ah, yes, but they have all been educated in the art and they will vote right." Be educated in religion and we will make no

mistakes. We shall finish the tower, we shall glorify all time, and when I am dead and gone and these boys and girls have passed on and other generations have come, Christianity will be nobler and stronger. Ah, suffice it then—

"In times to be shall purer altars rise to thee,
Thy church our broad humanity,
White flowers of love her walls shall climb,
Sweet bells of peace shall ring her chimes.
Her days shall all be holy days.
Then shall a sweeter song be heard,
The music of the world's accord
Confessing Christ, the incarnate Word."

—G. C. Lorimer, D. D.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

How unique was Christ's love as leader and hero. In military affairs the rule is that the general must not expose himself. Always the commanding officer must stand apart on some safe point. He controls the army from the vantage ground of security. From time to time his aids descend to the battlefield with his instructions. The under officers march at the head of the troops, not the leader. In going over the battlefields the sight-seer is always shown the point of safety from which the commander surveyed the battle scene below. Even in the olden days, when a chieftain received messages bidding him surrender, he told one of his soldiers to jump over a precipice and another to plunge a dagger into his heart, then when both instantly obeyed with proud disdain the chief told the messenger that every man in his army would gladly die for him. But if the soldiers died, the chieftain returned in safety to his tent. This method of sacrificing the follower has been the method of every leader from Alexander to Garibaldi. What if the chieftain had jumped over the precipice? What if the commander should seek out the thickest of the fight? Christ

is the one leader who always reserved the most dangerous spot for himself. He never sent another; he rather exposed himself to the full fury of the storm. Instead of sending others down, he went himself. He bore the followers' dangers, endured their temptations, healed their sicknesses, carried their sorrows. He gave himself for them. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."—Newell Dwight Hillis.

Do not dare to live without some clear intention toward which your living shall be bent. Mean to be something with all your might. Do not add act to act and day to day in perfect thoughtlessness, never asking yourself whether the growing time is leading. But at the same time, do not dare to be so absorbed in your own life, so wrapped up in listening to the sound of your own hurrying wheels, that all this vast pathetic music made up of the mingled joy and sorrow of your fellow-men, shall not find out your heart and claim it, and make you rejoice to give yourself up for them. And yet, all the while, keep the upward windows open. Do not dare to think that a child of God can worthily work out his career or worthily serve God's other children unless he does both in the love and fear of God their Father. Be sure that ambition and charity will both grow mean unless they are both inspired and exalted by religion. Energy, love and faith—these make the perfect man. And Christ, who is the perfectness of all of them, gives them all three to any young man who, at the very outset of his life, gives himself to him. If there is any young man who generously wants to live a whole life, wants to complete himself on every side, to him Christ the Lord stands ready to give these three—energy, love and faith—and to train them in him all together till they make him the perfect man.—Phillips Brooks.



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