

Burdens.



It is a burdened world. Every shoulder has its load, the carrying of which often becomes exceedingly tiresome. This is so far true as to make the invitation of Jesus, "Come unto Me, all ye that are heavy-laden," a universal invitation.

There are real loads and there are fictitious burdens. There are some things which a man ought no more refuse to bear than a ship should refuse to carry its freight. He was made to carry just such burdens. It is unmanly to strive to shirk them. But, sometimes, people take on themselves that which there is no need for them to bear; and then they make great complaints against fate, or God, or whatsoever or whomsoever they suppose to be at the head of universal affairs.

There are two things to be noticed here. One is, that whereas we have the same English word in both sentences, in the Greek there are two different words. In the first quotation the word translated "burden" means *that which tires*; in the second, it means *that which loads*. Whatever makes a man grow weaker and weaker is the first kind of burden. Whatever is needful to carry—such as a soldier's kit, or a ship's freight—it is the meaning of the second kind of burden.

Moreover, we are to consider the occasion of the employment of these phrases. A Christian man is overtaken in a fault, through some infirmity of character or temperament. He is not to be thrown away, therefore, any more than a brave soldier who has not the strength to carry his heavy knapsack and gun must be thrown out of the ranks, simply because, for the reason, he is too weak to bear his burden. His comrades must come up and restore such a one, in the spirit of meekness; for that comrade, spiritual as he is, and strong now, may sometime hereafter become tired, by either an increase of what he was carrying, or a decrease of his strength.

Those who are spiritual ought to be considering their Christian brethren all around them, to see how they can help the weak; but every Christian man ought, as far as possible, to bear his own burdens and discharge his own duties so as to throw nothing on his brother. The burden ought to be sought by the stronger; it ought not to be shirked by the weaker. If there be burdens which I cannot bear, and have no neighbor to assist me, then I have a comfort which is afforded me in Psalm 34: 22.—*Dr. C. F. Deems.*

Faithful in Little.

I CANNOT do great things for Him
Who did so much for me;
But I should like to show my love,
Dear Jesus unto Thee:
Faithful in very little things,
O Saviour, may I be.

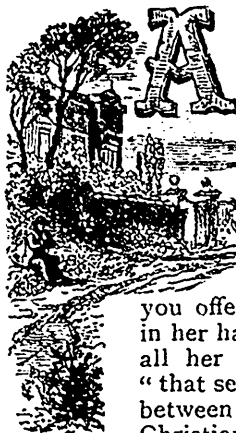
There are small things in daily life
In which I may obey,
And thus may show my love to Thee;
And always—every day—
There are some little loving words
Which I for Thee may say.

There are small crosses I may take,
Small burdens I may bear,
Small acts of faith and deeds of love,
Small sorrows I may share;
And little bits of work for Thee
I may do everywhere.

So I ask Thee, Lord, to give me grace
My little place to fill,
That I may ever walk with Thee,
And ever do Thy will;
That in each duty, great or small,
I may be faithful still.

Leaning.

"Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved." (S. of S. viii. 5.)



DEAR old Christian once said to me, "I want you to notice that word '*leaning*' on the arm of the Beloved. You give up your arm to a lady to take her into the drawing room, and she just touches your arm. But you go a long walk into the country with your wife; she is weary, and you offer her your arm, and she puts in her hand, and presses on you with all her might. Now, sir," he said, "that seems to me just the difference between the formalist and the real Christian. The formalist *touches* the arm of Jesus, he does not lean with all his might. But the real Christian feels his own weakness and weariness; and so, as he goes through the wilderness, he *leans* on his Beloved, bearing all his weight on that beloved arm, and finding power and strength; and the more he leans, the more he feels his own weakness, and at the same time the more he feels his strength in Him."