

turn to higher things—of God's overruling care of their dear country, bringing her victorious not only through her internecine troubles, but over every envious foreign nation that had sought to make capital out of those same troubles, to leap on her back, as it were, when she was down. "But," he would add, "it may be, Martin, that our people are growing spiritually proud, and overly intolerant of others who may slightly differ from them on minor points of doctrine, even to the extent of persecution, which is and ever must be a great evil, as entirely contrary to the law of Christ. Thou knowest, Martin, how foreign it has ever been to my temper not to grant to all under me complete liberty of conscience, or to meddle with anything of religious controversy, holding that to love God and keep His commandments is the whole duty of man, impossible of performance, except that love should be first shed abroad in our hearts by Himself. But tell me again, Martin, if thou wilt, the story of thy conversion. Wast an unregenerate rascal when first I knew thee" (with a sweet smile on the wan face), "but wast ever true, brave, and honest—a splendid foundation whercon to rear the glorious edifice of Christianity."

Then would Martin go through the well-remembered story, adding out of his stores of memory many pleasant things about his brother and Grace, with all of which the dying admiral was soothed and cheered and pleased. And so day by day, as the ships glided homeward, he drooped and sank as to his body, but rose ever into the clearer, brighter