

It were foolish, however, for us to try to shift all the burden on to the devil's back. The wiles and machinations of outward foes could not effect much if there was no inward weakness. According to the Apostle, all the powers of hell cannot prevail against a firm and active faith. "This is the victory which overcometh the world, your faith." But alas! to-day, not one country alone, but all lands are suffering from a feebleness of faith—a sickly languor has crept over them that unnerves them for the good fight. What is needed is a stimulating and bracing remedy, that will go to the root of the evil and dry up the sources of that languor.

These sources were pointed out not long ago by the reigning Pontiff in his beautiful encyclical letter on the Christian Life, in which he showed that the insatiable greed for wealth, accompanied with unbridled luxury and pride of living, is invading all grades of society, and not only sapping the foundations of private and family life, but menacing the public order of the world. As Moses in the desert lifted up the brazen serpent as a cure for all who looked at it, so the Holy Father raises before the eyes of mankind the standard of the Crucified, bidding all to adopt the very opposite of a worldly life. He assures us that, in the practice of self-denial and mortification which prayer will strengthen us to adopt, we shall acquire that robustness of faith which is "the source whereby not only private lives may be amended, but also those matters which in the daily conflict of men do not permit states to live in peace and security."

Another and more direct cause of a languid faith lies in the circumstances which surround our daily life. We were born and brought up in contact with all the influences of the Reformation, the essence of which is the denial of faith. We have lived our life long in the atmosphere of Protestantism. We have breathed it in company,