

stances make my Easter duty? If you say yes, I will do so tomorrow morning at the risk of seeing my trusty old house-keeper start to Jerusalem on foot in a pilgrimage of thanksgiving. I am asking your verdict in all seriousness. So far my life has been honorable and honest, do not advise me to commit my first act of hypocrisy.

Your old friend, Colonel N. B...

My dear old Friend,

Make you commit an act of hypocrisy. You! The very idea is as preposterous as your talk about having no faith is rank nonsense. Had you lived in the time of Clovis, you would have girded on your sword with as loyal a heart and



as stanch a faith as any of his brave crusaders. That faith of yours is not dead but dormant. How could it be otherwise when you have so shamefully neglected your religious duties for such a long time?

Here is my advice as frankly given as asked. Do not go to communion tomorrow. You need more time than that to prepare yourself properly to receive Our Lord worthily. Instead, kneel down every night, note I say, kneel down, and before the crucifix that received your virtuous wife's last sigh.—I know it still hangs at the head of your bed, so my condition is quite feasible,—and pray somewhat after this style: My God, there is no other alternative for me than Thy merciful help. There are many of my comrades