

kind of men that Calvinism has always made in the past, with the foundation laid deep, the structure reared according to rule, the intellect educated, the conscience quickened, the heart taught to respond in its affections to an intelligent conviction. And Calvinism alone is equal to the task,—not Calvinism as the world regards it, but the Calvinism of "The Other Side."—*W. J. Robinson, D.D., New York, in the Catholic Presbyterian.*

STRENGTH OUT OF WEAKNESS.

The thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians is the inspired hymn of Love. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is the sublime epic of Faith. Sometimes Christ gave an explanation of His own parables; and in the opening verse of this glorious chapter the Holy Spirit defines faith to be "the confidence of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." One of the achievements of faith is that "out of weakness" many were "made strong."

One of the chief processes of life is to strengthen the weak. This is the purpose of our daily bread and our nightly sleep. For this object the physician employs his skill in clearing evil humours from our systems and lifting off the weights that drag us down. Every good school has the double aim to fill ignorance with knowledge and to train brains how to think. Now, what food is to the body, what medicine is to the sick, what the school is to the ignorant child, divine grace is to our sin-diseased and sin-enfeebled souls. As sin is the one fatal weakness of every "natural heart," so conversion is thorough and transforming just in proportion as sin is subdued in the soul. My old grandfather used to cut up Canada thistles by the roots, with a long knife, and then throw salt into the cavity, to prevent their sprouting again. Conversion requires both knife and salt.

The real element of weakness in every Christian is his or her remaining sin, which keeps scattering its thistle-seed and propagating afresh. Our daily battle is with the sin that doth beset us; or, as Dean Alford translates it, "doth so easily enwrap us." The constant conflict with such brethren as Gough, or Sawyer, or Murphy is with the appetite for the bottle. When God's grace reigns within them and they keep a tight hold on the arm of Christ, then out of weakness they are made strong. Pride is a constant source of moral weakness, because, like a bloat of the face or the figure, it is a deception. Pride is simply self-exaggeration and light-headedness, and therefore it goes before destruction and when the strain comes we fall. Humility is the chief element in every healthy, robust Christian. It keeps him from soaring up into self-conceit, and holds him down in an implicit rest on Jesus as his rock of strength. Anteus was invincible as long as he stuck to his mother earth. When Hercules got him up into the air, he strangled him. No Christian is ever conquered while he lies low and firm on Christ. Then the divine strength is perfected in the Christian's weakness.

This explains Paul's famous paradox: "When I am weak, then am I strong." He means: When I feel most my own utter weakness, then do I use most the strength of Christ. Paul's constant endeavour was to empty himself of Paul, and to be filled with the fullness of his Lord. In October, the farmer is careful to get the chaff and the bran out of his granary, in order to make room for his wheat. He empties, in order to fill. Some of my readers may have observed this summer, at the seaside, certain molluscs sticking tightly to the rocks. Each mollusc clings so tenaciously that the concussion of the waves cannot smite it off. The secret of its hold is that the mollusc is empty. If it were to be filled, either with air or with flesh, it would drop off immediately. This illustrates literally the condition of every humble, honest, healthy believer who has been emptied of self, and so clings, by a divine law, more closely to the Rock of Ages. As soon as he should become puffed with pride or gorged with fleshly lusts, he would yield to the wave of temptation and be swept away. But while he is weak in himself he is immovable "through Christ strengthening him."

Faith in the Lord Jesus is power. It is the believ-

er's only real and enduring power. All those heroes who figure in the eleventh chapter of the Hebrews were made strong out of weakness by their grappling on God. Abraham believed God, and it counted for righteousness and strength. It made that noble old "friend of God" strong enough to undertake the journey into an unknown and unmapped land, and strong enough to bear his only son Isaac to the altar of sacrifice, in the trust that God could even "raise up from the dead." Faith made Elijah at Ahab's court and Daniel in Babylon to stand like adamant. Faith links us poor, feeble creatures to the Omnipotent. I often think that our churches and all our schemes of Christian philanthropy are like the loaded trains in a railway station, which remain stationary until an iron coupling attaches them to the locomotive. We need the coupling of faith to God's power, and then we shall begin to move. Out of weakness (for pew rolls, and pulpit eloquence, and prayer meetings have no spiritual power in and of themselves) we may become strong in the Lord.

Our spiritual strength requires constant renewal, just as the body requires to be renewed by food and sleep, and as even the outworn face of Nature must be renewed by the repose of the winter and the resurrections of the spring. One object of Sabbath worship and Bible teaching is to repair constant loss and to build us up. They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not grow weary; they shall walk and not faint away. But even an eagle would make but a sorry plight if it were not fed and if it lost the practice of its wings. So shall we, if we cease to feed on God's Word and cease to exercise ourselves to good works every day. Bible diet and Bible duty are the regimen to make athletic Christians.

Perhaps some of the readers of this article may have run down to a wretchedly feeble condition of heart and life. In a vague way, they look for their minister to wake them up, or for a "revival" in their church to restore them. This is a delusion. If the burglar's alarm in my house gets in such a condition that the "indicator" only mutters feebly or has gone dumb, I do not tinker with the indicator. I go to that closet where the battery stands, and fill the jars with fresh chemicals. Then the weak apparatus becomes strong. The trouble with many of our church-members is that their "indicators" act strangely. Their lips do not always speak the truth, or their hands drive honest bargains, or their lives display the power of godliness. Recovery can only come by repentance and by a new infusion of Christ into the soul. This requires heart work; it requires sincere prayer; it requires a reinforcement of Christ and a fresh baptism of his Holy Spirit. One honest hour with Jesus, in confession of sin, and an emptying of self, and a new surrender to Him, would work wonders in strengthening "weak hands and feeble knees." When you are thus converted afresh, you can strengthen your brethren.—*Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D., in N. Y. Independent.*

RIGHTEOUSNESS.

If the disgrace to us, as a Christian people, in having so many men who have been honoured in Church and State prove to be rascals, shall result in doing away with many of the false notions of business—in holding all men to a strict account for their trusts—in teaching people to live on their incomes,—in leading us to believe in a man, not simply because he is a church member, but because he has been tried and not found wanting,—then the present evil time which has come to the Church of God will be the dawn of a more perfect day. What we need is to write the word *righteousness* on the play-grounds where the children go to school—write it over every open door through which young men enter upon their life-work—write it on every carriage in which men ride to business, and women to their shopping,—write it on the walls of every bank, counting-room, and public building,—write it over the entrance of every church, that every man may see it when making a public profession of his faith in Christ,—write it so plainly that he who would make haste to be rich and great may

learn that there is but one road to real success in this world, and that is the road of strict integrity. God has not given a promise of His favour in this, or any other world, to any but the righteous man. The man who lives righteously is the only man that need apply for admission to the heavenly kingdom.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."
The Golden Rule.

INFLUENCE OF A MOTHER'S TEARS.

History records no more suggestive incident than the memorable termination of the siege of Rome by Coriolanus. No child ever perused the narrative without extraordinary emotion. There is something in it which appeals with an effect that may not be resisted to the heart and the consciousness of all. Who has not in imagination dwelt upon the scene? A stout and sturdy warrior, steeled by years of active military service against the pitiful appeals of suffering humanity—the victim of fierce and ungovernable passions—smarting under a keen sense of accumulated wrong—consecrates the energies of his life to the avenging of his injury, and exiles from the city whose annals his military prowess has adorned, sallies forth, the infuriated minister of wrath. Sacrificing all higher and ennobling aspirations—sully forever the hard-earned laurels of the victor of Corioli—he seeks, even at the price of a traitor's fame, to purchase a satisfying vengeance. Rallying around him an army of the enemy he had prostrated for her, he throws himself with an exulting legion upon the offending city, and thunders at her gates. Appalled and prostrate at the realization of her seemingly inevitable doom, Rome trembles before him. With humbled pride, her haughty senators, in solemn procession, come to sue for mercy. D disdainfully repulsed, they dispatch the minister of their religion to woo with the hopes of future bliss, and intimidate with the prospect of a coming retribution. But all in vain. Unrelenting and unmoved by every appeal, the stern veteran relaxes not his purpose. Then come the mother's tears. Bending under the weight of years—sustained by a holy hope—the aged matron sallies forth. Who can paint the scene! Who may realize the meeting? In the most insensate soul there are treasured associations and memories which, forgotten amid the wild tumult of angry passion, awaken at the whisper of a mother's name, to beat in every pulsation of the heart and thrill through every fibre of the frame. There is a sentiment of holy veneration in the soul of the child to its mother, which he must sound the lowest depths of infamy who may forget or disregard. With streaming eyes and anguished heart the Roman mother kneels to plead with her traitor son. Appealing to him by all the hallowed memories of his uncorrupted boyhood, and chiding with the affectionate rebuke and tenderness that well up from a mother's soul towards an erring child, she conjures him to relinquish his cherished purpose. The warrior is unmanned. Talk not of grief till thou hast seen the tears of warlike men. Fearful, but of brief duration, is the struggle of contending emotion. Instinct triumphs—the cup of vengeance is dashed untasted from the lips—Rome is safe again. A mother's tears have changed the destiny of the world.

THE most mischievous liars are those who keep sliding on the verge of truth.

IN Hebrew schools it is the rule, and has been the practice from olden time, to study Hebrew with covered heads. The Faculty of the Jewish Union College being unwilling to continue this practice, a ferment is arising.

JOHN B. GOUGH delivered his farewell address in England at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Mr. Spurgeon presiding and presenting him with his sermons, in twenty-four volumes, as a testimonial to the orator on his departure.

COREA, with its population of twelve or fifteen millions, which has been closed to the world two thousand years, has opened one of its ports to Japan, and a native Church of Japan has arranged to send the gospel there.

AN anchor which Columbus lost in 1498 has recently been found on the western extremity of the Island of Trinidad. It was found six feet beneath the surface, and 372 feet inland from the nearest point of the coast line. Its weight is 1,100 pounds.

ALEXANDER the Sixth is, perhaps, the greatest and foulest criminal in history; and he is, furthermore, an occupant of the chair of St. Peter, the infallible pontiff of a Church which claims to be connected with Christianity.—*Nineteenth Century.*

THE sinner's blessing is, we believe, within reach of us all—the sweet sense of sins forgiven, the overflowing gratitude of the forgiven Mary. Its costs us too much to be pharisaic if it cuts us off from the tender delight of Mary's happy tears.—*Methodist.*

THERE are multitudes who, in weighing their words, think only of their truthfulness and sincerity, rather than of their appropriateness to the hour; whereas words of truth and sincerity may be culpably cruel words through being words out of season.—*Sunday School Times.*

THE very air is poisoned in which our children live. No legislation, no single reform, can touch this disease any more than it could cure the malaria which slays its victims by the thousand. It is for each family, each clergyman, each mother, to clean and sweeten their own household.—*Tribune.*