

CHRISTIAN MANLINESS.—Virtues will not come to serve us upon great occasions, unless they are trained and developed day by day. One who allows himself habitually to be led by others in little things, will have no manly independence when tested with some great responsibility. He who suffers timidity to prevail against duty in the least thing, will sacrifice the greatest interests to his personal fears. Are you moved to speak to another upon the state of his soul—and yet do you shrink from the possibility of a rebuff? Resolve that you will perform this duty; pray that you may conquer your weakness, go and do it, and you will add to your faith virtue. Are you moved to admonish an erring brother? No matter how painful the task, take up that duty and perform it. Go in meekness, in the spirit of love, but with the Master's strength and you will add to your faith virtue. Are you called upon in the providence of God, to take some untried responsibility for the cause of Christ? Do not shrink from it, but stand in your lot; it may be just the discipline you need to add to your faith virtue. John Knox wept for very weakness when his brethren called upon him to be their leader; but with faith in Christ he put on manly resolve, and then the wayward and wilful Queen trembled and wept under his bold rebukes. The young christian should begin early to cultivate this holy courage; learn to say NO to every solicitation of evil; learn to say YES to every call of duty. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in that which is greatest. The gunner who held his finger on the touch-hole till it burned to the joint; that he might save the life of the rammer, from a premature discharge, would have saved the Austria by that cool courage which conquers fire and flood.—*J. P. Thompson, D.D.*

WHAT THE LOVE OF MONEY HAS MADE MEN DO.—“It is not wrong to amass wealth. It is not wrong to increase it, if you have the beginnings of it. Neither is it wrong to make provision for its safety. Although, taken unconnectedly, there are some passages of scripture, that would seem to make it a sin for a man to have or to achieve wealth, yet the testimony of Scripture, taking it as a whole is uniform, and most unequivocal in the other way. There is no moral wrong in the ownership, and administration, or in the increase of wealth. It is not wealth that ever is a mischief. It is what it does to you that makes it injurious or beneficial. It is said that money is the root of all evil; but the Bible does not say so; neither does life say so. It is the *love* of money that has been the root of all evil; not the *possession* of it, nor the legitimate use of it, but the love which we call *avarice*—for that is but another name for love, dandle, fondle. That is the root of evil, and of all evil. *There is not a thing done on the face of the earth, that the love of money has not made men do. There is not an iniquity in the whole calendar of sin, from the selling of Christ for thirty pieces of silver, down to the most trifling misdemeanour, that men have not committed from the love of money.*—*Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.*

GRACE REIGNS.—“Where sin abounded grace hath much more abounded.” The waters deluged the world, but could not wash away the dreadful stain. The fire fell from heaven, but could not burn out the accursed plague. The earth opened her mouth, but could not swallow up the monster Sin. The law thundered forth its threat from the thick darkness on Sinai, but could not by all its terrors restrain the children of disobedience. Still “the offence abounded;” it waxed bold and pitched its tents on Calvary, and nailed the Lawgiver to a tree. But in that conflict sin received its mortal wound. The victim was the victor. He fell, but in His fall He crushed the foe. He died unto sin, but sin and death were crucified upon His cross. “Grace hath abounded!” It hath established its throne on the merit of the Saviour's sufferings. It hath put on the crown and laid hold of the golden sceptre, and spoiled the dominion of the Prince of darkness, and the gates of the great cemetery are thrown open, and there is the beating of a new life pulse throughout its wretched population, and immortality is working among the tombs! There is no debt unpaid—no devil unconquered—no enemy within your own heart that has not received a mortal wound. “Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”—*Christmas Evans.*