

first. And this again is his appeal: "Quit you like men; be strong."

4. And once more the message of this strenuous life comes home to us, and it has the clear ring of his own unfailling faith. He bids us hope. He says it's all for the best. He was indeed an optimist, sunny as well as strong, smiling as well as strenuous. What a ring was in his laugh! And his optimism was not a thing of an easy-going temperament, an affair of the nerves, a happy sentiment born of a cloudless summer sky. He knew life's seamy side, he felt life's smiting sorrows, and he faced life's stress and storm. His optimism was a more enduring thing, a thing of faith. He saw and felt the burdens of the world, but he believed in God and in Jesus Christ. He was confident that this is God's world, and he was willing to wait the issue. Had he not known God in Jesus Christ, the burden of the world to a man of his imagination would have been intolerable; had he not believed in the increasing purpose of the ages, he must have given up the struggle. But God to him was very near. How reverently he prayed! How conscious he was of One in whose life the souls of men find life! How sure he was that that One was love! He wrote these words to the medical students from the hospital: "Ten days ago, one of your professors told me to look into the Kingdom of Darkness. I did so steadily, and found nothing to terrify." He was not afraid, because he believed. And that optimism of faith never failed him. When the last hour came, knowing that it was the last, he looked up into the face of his only son and smiled the same bright, sunny smile as when his strength was firm. O men and women, hear the message of this strenuous life. It is not that you should bandage your eyes and creep past the sorrow of life and the spectre of death. Nor is it the light-hearted word of one who does not understand. No, it is the life-message of the man who loved life and tasted its best; and from the place where only the real things count he calls back to us that all is well.