

for moral muscle to shatter the brazen serpent of effete orthodoxy ! O for heroism to discard the unreal conventionalities of religion, the lifeless ritualism, the chilling formalism ! O for reformers to smite the shams and falsehoods of religion—to strip off the artificial trappings which only conceal its natural form—and to call men back to the “eternal verities !” Pledge yourselves to undying warfare against religious affectation, sentimentalism, make-belief ; and take your stand like men upon conviction, naturalness, the realities of the spiritual life.

And let it be clearly seen that your religion is not merely a restraint—a straight-waistcoat—a catalogue of prohibitions—but an inspiration—a producer of ripe manhood—sending the currents of manly life coursing through your whole being. This is what youth craves.

“ ’Tis life of which our nerves are scant ;
 ’Tis life, not death, for which we pant ;
 More life, and fuller, that we want.”

Present a Christianity that does not devitalize, but which brings with it a fuller life—attractive to liberty-loving youth. And to this end throw open the doors of your whole nature to the life-giving Spirit of God. Consecrate your complete manhood to Christ—your bodies to be the temple of Christ—your intellects to be devoted to the service of Him and His needy brethren—your moral powers to be used in extending His kingdom of righteousness—your spiritual natures to be made partakers of His likeness. Fling yourselves unreservedly upon His altar, all you have, and are, and ever hope to be, saying : “ Lord Jesus, receive me ; I am thine now, wholly thine and thine forever, Amen.”



We older children grope our way,
 From dark behind to dark before ;
 And only when our hands we lay,
 Dear Lord, in Thine, the night is day,
 And there is darkness nevermore.

Reach downward to the sunless deep,
 Wherein our guides are blind as we,
 And faith is small and hope delays ;
 Take Thou the hands of prayer we raise,
 And let us feel the light of Thee.

—John Greenleaf Whittier.