

promises to carry you and your burden too.

"Am I drooping? Thou art near me,
Near to bear me on my way :
Am I pleading? Thou wilt hear me,
Hear and answer when I pray.

"Then, O my soul, since God doth love thee
Faint not, droop not, do not fear ;
For though His Heaven is high above thee,
He himself is ever near !

"Near to watch thy wayward spirit,
Sometimes cold and careless grown ;
But likewise near with grace and merit,
All thy Saviour's, thence thine own."

There are burdens peculiar to Christians. Strange as it may seem, when sin is forgiven, it lies heaviest upon the heart. Guilt is upon the world, yet how madly it sports on the brink of death! From the believer in Christ, sin has been taken away in its guilt, and will one day be taken away in its defilement, yet how heavily the weakness of sin weighs on the Christian's spirit. A tender conscience loathes its presence, and seeks to have it wholly cast out. Never did Paul speak of any suffering as he did of that which arose from his daily conflict with sin. See on Grecian plains two combatants meet for victory. Their hands clad in the nail-studded cestus, how warily they approach each other! Each motion of hand and foot is watched; now blow follows blow in swift succession, until one, with a sharp, sudden sweep of the mailed hand, strikes his opponent to the dust. And in that senseless, bleeding body see what Paul meant when he said, "I bruise my body, and bring it unto subjection." O the fight with that inward sinful self is indeed terrible, as all can tell who wage it! Now pride holds us in her petulant grasp, and whispers we

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