

burdened with care breaks forth in the dimpled laughter and sportive play. We would not have it otherwise, God has a purpose in that joy. The bud would not blossom into the fragrant flower without the influence of the sunshine. And the boy would not become the man if on his childish heart the cares of old age were laid. The spirit would be crushed and the body dwarfed. Let the gladness nestle within the child, but let it be wisely shielded by parental counsel and prayer. When the limb has grown strong for toil, and the heart brave to endure, then God brings the burden down—lightly at first, gradually it increases in its pressure, growing with his growth, a burden that can be shaken off only with the earthly house itself.

*There are burdens Christians endure in common with all men.* Family cares, when children sicken and die, or, more heavily still, when children turn their back on a father's God, and their follies pierce a mother's heart. Business perplexities—when markets are uncertain, when trade droops, when best-formed plans fail, and disaster falls on the conscientious tradesman. Burdens of false friends and busy tongues—when motives are misread and actions are misunderstood. Burdens of poverty, when the life is held in a ceaseless drudgery of toil, with scant time for rest or cultivation of the mind. There are many such burdens that make the supports of this earthly tabernacle to bend beneath their weight. But each trial, wisely used, is a friend as well. The heaviest burden of life has love—the love of an infinite Saviour—in the heart of it. "Cast thy burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain *thee*"—not thy burden only. Though dark adversities, or bitter sorrow, or death robed in blackest garb meet you, by all the might of His divinity, and all the mercy of His atonement, Christ