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Faith Makes Men Strong.

By Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis

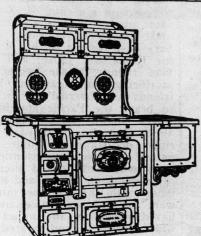
Faith is a gigantic force. It drives more than half of the machinery of life. The doubt of eternal justice is accompanied by failing strength of man. Faith is the soul in motion. So far from being an anodyne to rest, it is a tonic to work: Of all virtues, it is the most practical. By faith the mariner sails the seas, through mist and fog, trusting to his needle and the hidden star. By faith the merchant consigns rich stuffs to a purchaser beyond the seas; by faith the inventor toils upon his model, seeing afar off the day when his engine will lighten every load; by faith the reformer labors on, foreseeing the day when every fetter shall fall: by faith we buy, by faith we sell, by faith we ride, trusting life to an engineer whom we do not know, trusting goods to a captain whom we have not seen. By faith men marry and women are given in marriage; by faith the mother looks beyond the babe's helplessness, ignorance and folly, toward the strength and wisdom of youth. By faith parents send their children out into an unknown world to make fortune and fame. By faith the youth aspires, struggles, and at last achieves. By faith old age lies down to sleep, and wakens into an eternal morn. What has faith not done? What can it not do? It has lent the bloom to pictures, aspiration to cathedrals, pathos to music, sweetness to love, and wholeness to life. In religion, faith means confidence in a great, dear Unseen Friend, who doth all things well.

Marvelous, therefore, the interlacing of the two worlds—one, seen by reason and sense, and the other realized by the inner eye, that is the bliss of solitude. Athens had two cities-down in the plain was the city of work, with shops, ox carts, plows and hoes; on the hillside were the shops where men bought and sold. But the crags above were crowned with temples, where beauty and worship had their home. Oft in the hours of tumult and strife, when the workers feared the coming of enemies, they turned their thoughts upward toward the Parthenon, and drank in the beauty of Athena's face, and her calm, white hand seemed to fall upon brow, to allay the fear, and breathe peace to the frightened working-men. culture and character represented the interplay of the upper and the lower city. So it is that man's life of work and invisible life of faith and worship are knitted together. The inventor, the statesman, not less than the saint and the martyr, endure, as seeing God, who

is invisible. Fulfilling this brief and troubled career, man, frail as a reed, man's life, brief as a tale that is told, what can man do without the abiding God? Man's ship is useful only when it is filled and swept forward by God's trade winds; man's engine serves only when it is driven by God's lightnings; man's wheels turn round only when they are pounded upon by the river's current; man's intellect needs the impact of God's truth; man to do good work must see the heavens open and Christ standing by the throne of God. This vision of the eternal God who can carry on his work makes the toiler equal to any task. "We are two," said Mahomet's servant, looking down on the splendor of Damascus "Nay, we are three, for God is with us." O, what comfort in this for the tired worker! That the temple is God's and that he will raise up another builder to carry up the walls and crown it with flashing dome. If God is, then all events are well. What cares the babe for the blackness and the wild storm if only the mother holds it to her bosom and croons the hymn of peace. And in the hour when the world reels beneath his feet, frail man becomes almost omnipothe thought that beneath the world the everlasting arms. O. thou Go of love and goodness and guidance guidance Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears, our faith, triumphant are all with Thee, are all Thou armest man for ex-

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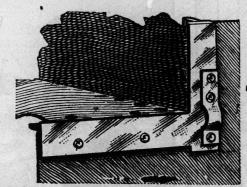
tight by riveting. The oven is made of the heaviest steel plate. securely

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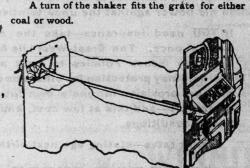
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