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LADIES

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stayed with his employer several years, and was raised to a high position, I think the offence was never repeated.

Boys, the first theft is the longest step you take toward prison; the first glass of liquor takes you nearer a drunkard's grave than all you swallow after; often the first oath clinches the habit of profanity. A stained soul is hard to purify. There are virtues you can lose, but once lost they are gone forever.

The Adventurers.

"I am going for a voyage," quoth the Sailor to me;
"Shall I bring you any treasures from the lands beyond the sea?
My gallant ship is riding now at anchor in the bay!"



Walk on the Sunny Side.

Thy sun shall no more go down:
neither shall thy moon withdraw itself:
for the Lord shall be thine everlasting Light.—Isa. 60:20.

High in the distant sapphire way
A cloud and a sunbeam met one day;
Met as, indeed, might you and I,
By chance, if we rode through the azure sky.

The cloud wore a saddened, a gloomy face,
Quoth the sunbeam, all in a quiver of grace:
"Why frown you on your daily way?
Why look so sad when life's so gay?"

The sombre cloud to this quest replied:
"It's easy for you to be satisfied;
I'm born of rain, you're born of the sun,
I needs must weep till the world is done."

"'Tis true," said the sunbeam, "that you must cry,
While I must smile through the boundless sky;
But there's never a sorrow that won't undo
Through the smile of a friend, and I'll smile for you."

And, lo, as the sunbeam spoke, the frown
On the face of the cloud was softening down;
'Twas years ago, but each cloud you see
Bears a silver lining for you and me.

We can all walk in the light if we choose; there is always a sunny side to the road of life, though too often we deliberately walk on the shadowed side. The outer sunshine may fail, troubles may be on every side, but the Light of the world has promised that those who follow Him shall not walk in darkness. He is the true Pillar of fire, leading the Church through a dark wilderness. His disciples are not left to grope their way painfully; though for a time their outer sky may be darkened so that the sun shall be no more their light by day, neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto them. Already their faces catch the glow of the City which has no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the glory of GOD is their everlasting Light.

Some people are like an April day, very bright when there is nothing to worry them, but clouding over the moment any little vexation comes to ruffle their uncertain good-humor. The only way to keep always in the sunshine on a cloudy day is to live above the clouds. You may say that that is impossible—unless one could live on a high mountain or in a balloon—but, though the force of gravitation may keep the body low, the spirit can rise above circumstances. Those who keep their eyes fixed on the Sun of Righteousness walk with shining faces, reflecting as polished mirrors the glory of the Lord, and so making life brighter for all who come near them. Nothing can darken their sky, if they

So I kissed my daring Sailorman and watched him sail away!

"I am riding forth to battle," quoth the Warrior to me;
"My charger's prancing at the gate, as you may plainly see.

I am riding forth to glory, but I'll come again some day!"
So I kissed my gallant Warrior and watched him ride away.

My sailor's far upon the sea, my warrior's in the fight,
Yet both will nestle in my arms and hold me close to-night.
For the soldier and the sailorman (be kind to them, O Fate!)
Are just my merry little lads out swinging on the gate!

—Hannah G. Fernald.

hold everything up to the light it is instantly transfigured. They can thank God for pain of mind and body, because they care more for the spiritual good that may be won through it than for present ease.

"We may forget Him in His gifts—
We cannot well forget the Hand that holds
And pierces us, and will not let us go,
However much we strive from under it—
The heavy pressure of a constant pain. . .
Is it not God's own finger-tips,
Laid on thee in a tender steadfastness?"

A difficulty or a strong temptation, held up to the light, is seen to be a grand opportunity for a victory, and it rouses all the love of fighting which lies latent in us all. With God on our side we can meet dangerous foes as fearlessly as David the stripling met Goliath the giant. The duties which press on us continually may be transfigured and transformed into opportunities of joyful service to a loved Master, and disappointments supply us with gifts to lay at His feet—it is a privilege to have the opportunity to submit our will to His and prove our love by a real sacrifice that costs something. If only our eyes are fixed on Him we cannot only accept whatever He sends submissively, but can even welcome with a smile that which hurts us most, though it may be a rainbow smile, caused by the sun shining through tears. Strange, but not impossible, is the command of our Master to those who are persecuted and hated and cast out by their fellow men, to "rejoice, and leap for joy." How soon we find that command being obeyed, when the apostles were beaten by the council and departed, "rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name." And through all the centuries that have passed since then, the record of the noble army of martyrs is a record of triumphant joy—joy triumphing over pain.

"Mocked, imprisoned, stoned, tormented,
Sawn asunder, slain with sword,
They have conquered death and Satan
By the might of CHRIST the LORD.
Marching with Thy Cross their banner,
They have triumphed following
Thee, the Captain of salvation,
Thee, their Saviour and their King;
Gladly, Lord, with Thee they suffered;
Gladly, Lord, with Thee they died,
And by death to life immortal
They were born and glorified."

We have no right to darken the atmosphere around us by continual fretting and fault-finding, by grumbling about the weather, about the meals, about the set of a new dress or the disagreeable manner of an acquaintance. We have no right to look like a thunder-cloud because the children are tiresome or someone else has taken possession of the "Farmer's Advocate." A person with an uncertain temper, who takes offence or gets irritable with the slightest amount of provocation, generally succeeds in making everyone about him un-

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Have you a friend who likes reading?

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