

I must go through or go under." But the foremost man has passed the centre of the channel, where the water begins to lick the backs of the horses less and less, and to subside along the ribs down toward the stirrups! He shouts out to the rest: "Ho! I am past the channel! Come on!" The worst will soon be over. In all the rest of his passage, he is rising, at every step, higher and higher out of the flood, and is coming nearer and nearer the opposite bank. The rest that are behind, take new hope, and plunge into the channel as though they had at first feared no danger, and all reach in safety the other shore!

O Christian! standing in fear by the side of the flood, fearing to enter in, and cross to the other shore, others who have gone before are standing on those distant shores, and calling out to you to "take courage and plunge into the wave!" The voices of friends are calling on the other side: "Come over, come over!" The voices of companions, the voices of children who have passed safely through; the voices of parents long gone over; the voice of the loved and lost—lost on this side but saved on the other—are calling out across the stream: "Come over! come over!" Angels and shining ones stand with them on the bank, and mingle their voices with these, saying and beckoning! "Come over! come over!"

The testimony of all who have tried the stream is but one unanimous voice: "We came over safe! We came over safe!"

O Christian! faint not, but follow after! A little more fording, and you shall find that the waters, instead of growing deeper, will grow less deep; and you will rise out of the flood and stand safe upon the other shore! Do not be discouraged, therefore, because you are not yet landed. Do not faint because you are yet in the struggle. You shall by and by be across the channel and over the stream, and stand victorious on the other side! May God grant to every one of you the victory through Christ, our hope and our Redeemer! Amen!