

HE LEADETH ME.

The clouds hang heavy round my way,
I cannot see;
But through the darkness, I believe
God leadeth me.

'Tis sweet to keep my hand in His,
While all is dim;
'To close my weary, aching eyes,
Add follow Him.

Through many a thorny path He leads
My tired feet,
Through many a path of tears I go,
But it is sweet.

To know that He is close to me,
My Guard, my Guide,
He leadeth me, and so I walk
Quite satisfied.

—Sel.

THE CHRISTIAN'S BINNACLE-LIGHT.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

A sea voyage is a symbol of the voyage of life. When I have crossed the Atlantic, I have loved to go out on the deck at night, and standing by the binnacle, to watch the steersman at the wheel. The present gigantic steamers do not afford a passenger the opportunity to do this, as we once could do on a sailing-packet. I have stood by the steersman when beyond the bow there arose a wall of deep darkness. Huge waves were smiting the vessel in the face. Great chasms opened in the dark for her prow to plunge in, and then leaping upward, she would toss the spray off her, as a lion shakes the dew drops from his mane. It looked hazardous enough for human life, to be driving on through the black midnight.

But all the time the pilot was at the helm. He looked steadfastly down at the binnacle light, which shone on the face of the compass. That binnacle compass was the eye of the ship. By that faithful guide she sees her way through the pitchy darkness.

"We hear the bell struck in the night.
We hear the noise about the keel,
We see the compass glimmer bright
We know the pilot's at the wheel."

And so the ship-master "cracks on" the canvass, and pushes trustfully through the dark and over the billows.

In the same manner every child of God is to sail his way towards eternity. The future is all a mystery. No one knows what the next hour may bring forth. There are unseen trials and unlooked for assaults of temptation. There are perils in the deep and threatening lee shores. Headwinds of adversity often swell into gales that send ruinous waves which make a clean breach from stem to stern. We know not what is in the darkness. But we do know that our compass is all right. It is of divine workmanship; it is God's own, infallible, inspired, and unchangeable Word. The binnacle light shines full on its face, and in the darkness we can read such precious truths as these, which flash out like diamonds:

"The Lord knoweth them that are His." "No good thing will He withhold from them who walk uprightly." "To the upright there ariseth light in the darkness." The binnacle light flames down beautifully on this precious truth—"All things work together for good to them who love God, who are the called according to His pur-

pose." "Hope, then, in God; for we shall yet praise Him who is the health of our countenance and our God!"

Come up close to the light, all ye who are burdened with anxieties, and read these assuring words: "Be anxious for nothing; cast your cares upon Him, for he careth for you." Are you sorely tried with sharp providences that seem to your eye harsh and cruel? Then read these sweet words by the binnacle lamp: "Whom I love I chasten. No chastening is for the present joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness." Wait and see, my brother! Sorrow-stricken sister, wait and see! Look, too, at this glowing verse that flashes out in the darkness: "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." The end of the voyage is not far off to some of us. What saith the legend of the compass? Here it is: "Let not your heart be troubled; believe also in Me; in My Father's house are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you." "It doth not yet appear what we shall be." No matter as long as we know that "when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." Let the winds roar, then, if they will. Our Pilot's at the helm!

"Slacken no sail, brother,
At inlet or island,
Straight by the compass steer
Straight for the highland.

"Set thy sail carefully,
Darkness is round thee,
Steer thy course steadily,
Quicksands may ground thee.

"Fear not the darkness
Dread not the night,
God's Word is thy compass
Christ is thy light.

"Crowd all thy canvas on
Out through the foam!
It soon will be morning
And heaven be thy home."

GOD'S LOVE CHANGES NOT.

Human love may change. The friendship of last year has grown cold. The gentleness of yesterday has turned to severity. But it never thus with God's love. It is eternal. Its experience of it may be variable, but there is a variability in the love. Our lives may change; our consciousness of his love may fade out, but the love clings forever; the gentleness of God abides eternal. "For the mountains shall depart, and hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee."

There is never a moment, nor any experience in the life of a true Christian, from the heart of which a message may not instantly be sent up to God, and back to which help may not instantly come. God is not off in some remote heaven merely. He is not away at the top of the long, steep life ladder, looking down upon us in serene calm, and watching us as we struggle upward in pain and tears. He is with each one of us on every part of the way. His promise of presence is an eternal tense: "I am with thee." So "Thou God seest me," becomes to the believer a most cheering and inspiring assurance. We are never out of God's sight for a moment. His eye watches each one of us continually, and his heart is in his eye. He comes instantly to our help and deliverance when we are in any need or danger.—Sel.