

eer of all the mighty fleet of American missions to heathendom. No penitent soul who comes to Jesus can foreknow all the obstacles and oppositions, all the temptations or trials that lie before him. It is well that he cannot. He might be frightened back, or be hamstrung with discouragements. There are too many "Pliables" who get bemired in the first "Slough of Despond," and are glad to sneak back to that worldly life which they had never truly abandoned. "Christian" gets out of the Slough on the side towards heaven.

Difficulties are a part of our discipline. Canaan lies on the other side of both the Red Sea and the Jordan. We need not cross either of them till we come to them. God can divide the big Sea as easy as He can dry up the little river. When we come up to the sea, the voice of Providence is "go forward," and the waters part asunder. When we reach the flowing Jordan and our feet touch the stream, behold it has vanished and we go through dry-shod! The story of Christian faith and its divine deliverances reads like a romance. When we voyagers get safely into the "desired haven" up yonder, we may take great comfort in looking over our log-books and in the discovering how wonderfully our Helmsman brought us through dark nights and dangerous channels. The writer of this article is aware that a very dense fog lies ahead, both over his own future and that of his beloved church. There is one, however, to whom the darkness shineth as the day.

Faith's real office and faith's real victory is in trusting the helm to Christ in the fogs and through the dark hours. Everybody can trust God in the sunshine and over smooth water. It is easy to commit our way to the Lord when that way seems as clear as the noonday. Faith says "Commit the helm to Him when you cannot see your hand before your face, when the clouds have extinguished every star, and no lighthouse of human guidance is in sight!" Jesus can see in the dark, if we cannot. The beginning of every genuine Christian life is by the supernatural operation of the Holy Spirit; and the supernatural agency and oversight of the Son of God is concerned in every step of that life to the final entrance into glory. Take that fact out of our religion and it becomes a beautiful myth, a devout delusion. But when I accept a Book that came down out of heaven as the rule of my faith, and a divine Saviour that came down out of heaven as the rule of my faith, and a divine Saviour that came down out of heaven as my Redeemer and my Guide and my Protector, then I can entrust the bark that bears my immortal soul into His safe pilotage. John

Newton remembered his experience as a sailor when he wrote:

"By prayer let me wrestle,
And He will perform;
With Christ in the vessel,
I smile at the storm."

FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN.

The following rules were found in the pocket-book of a good and successful man the late Hon. Stephen Allan who was for a term Mayor of New York city.

"Keep good company or none.

Never be idle.

If your hands can't be usefully employed, attend to the cultivation of your mind.

Always tell the truth.

Make few promises.

Live up to your engagements.

Keep your own secrets if you have any.

When you speak to a person, look him in the face.

Good company and good conversation are the very sinews of virtue.

Good character is above all things else.

Your character cannot be essentially injured except by your own acts.

If any one speaks evil of you, let your life be so that no one will believe him.

Drink no kind of intoxicating liquors.

Ever live (misfortune excepted) within your income.

When you retire to bed, think over what you have been doing during the day.

Make no haste to get rich if you would prosper.

Small and steady gains give competency with a tranquil mind.

Never play any game of chance.

Avoid temptation, through fear you may not withstand it.

Earn money before you spend it.

Never run into debt unless you see a way to get out again.

Never borrow if you can possibly avoid it.

Never speak evil of any one.

Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.

Be just before you are generous.

Keep yourself innocent if you would be happy.

Save when you are young, to spend when you are old.

Read over the above maxims at least once a week."