

## Courage.

Be strong, my heart, and do not falter;  
 God knows it all.  
 His love is fixed; it cannot alter,  
 Though stars should fall.  
 This sorrow that His mercy sendeth  
 Is best for thee;  
 Nearer to thee thy Saviour bendeth  
 From Calvary.  
 And in the end what now seems dreary,  
 A crown shall be;  
 His perfect love shall then be clearly  
 Revealed to thee.

## Over-Sensitiveness.

There are some people, yea, many people, always looking out for slights. They cannot carry on the daily intercourse of the family without some offence is designated. If they meet an acquaintance on the street who happens to be preoccupied with business, they attribute his abstraction to some mood personal to themselves, and take umbrage accordingly. They lay on others the fact of their irritability. A fit of indignation makes them see impertinence in every one they come in contact with. Innocent persons who never dreamed of giving offence, are astonished to find some unfortunate word or momentary taciturnity mistaken for an insult. To say the least, the habit is unfortunate. It is far wiser to take the more charitable view of our fellow-beings, and not suppose a slight is intended unless the neglect is open and direct.

After all, too, life takes its hues in a great degree from the colour of our mind. If we are frank and generous, the world treats us kindly. If on the contrary, we are suspicious, men learn to be cold and cautious toward us. Let a person get the reputation of being touchy, and everybody is under more or less constraint, and in this way the chance of an imaginary offence is vastly increased.

## The Brave and the True.

As Christians we profess to be engaged in a warfare against something, even the enemies of our salvation, the world, the flesh and the devil—three most formidable and deadly foes.

When the little smiling infant is brought to the font for baptism, and signed with the sign of the cross, it is no mere figure of speech, but in solemn earnestness, that he is invested with a sword and a shield. He is not only enlisted as a soldier of Christ, but he is pledged to "fight manfully" to the end.

The office for the Lord's Supper (the other sacrament of grace) opens also with a prayer "for the whole state of Christ's Church militant,"—the Church which is engaged in open and determined war.

A great company in all ages and nations who have enlisted at baptism and confirmation, as we have done, have proved themselves strong and of good courage, and henceforth there is laid up for them "a crown of righteousness which fadeth not away."

The pages of history are made resplendent by their names.

Listen to the golden-mouthed Chrysostom, in his exile: "When driven from the city, I cared nothing for it, but I said to myself, if the empress wishes to banish me, the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof. If she would saw me in sunder, let her do it; I have Isaiah for a pattern. If she would plunge me into the sea, remember Jonah. If she would thrust me into the fiery furnace, I see the three children enduring that. If she would cast me to the wild beasts, I call to mind Daniel in the den of lions. If she would take my head from me, think of John the Baptist. If she would deprive me of my worldly goods, let her do it; naked came I into the world, and naked I shall go out of it."

Brave old Christian hero! Even the smooth-tongued, scoffing Gibbon testified of him that he showed "a firmness of mind much superior to that of Cicero in his exile."

When Bishop Hooper was condemned by "Bloody Mary" to be burned at the stake for holding fast to the truth of God, a free pardon was offered him if he would recant. The remark was, at the same time, made in his hearing, to influence his decision, "Life is sweet, and death is bitter."

The martyr-bishop answered, "The death to come is more bitter and the life to come more sweet."

"As Christ was both a Lamb and a Lion," says old Bishop Hall, "so is every Christian a lamb for patience in suffering and innocence of life, a lion for boldness in his innocency."

Alas for the world, that all who enlisted as soldiers have not been brave and enduring!

## The Elements of Life.

The elements of life are very few and very simple. We all know of Millet's great picture, "The Angelus;" nothing very picturesque about it, only a stretch of common earth and an ordinary peasant scene, yet it is a great religious picture, the greatest painted during this century. It is great, and appeals to us because it brings out these simple elements of genuine life. The first is work. How are we to become religious when three-fourths of our time is spent in drudgery? The answer which many of you have learned is, work is religious in the highest sense. The workshop is a place to make not only engines, but men. The university is not merely for learning, but for building character by work. How do we develop character? The same as we learn to play ball or the violin—by practice. The man who scamps his work turns out a scamp. Not merely is sturdy work the road to a career, but it is life. Thirty years of Christ's life were spent in common work, not dreaming with the Bible and good books in His hand, but making things—tables, plows, yokes. Be thankful for hard work. It is that which teaches you life.

The second element is prayer. We must cultivate what our forefathers called the "presence of God." The picture of God which was shown to me as a boy was a dark cloud with a little cleft through which a piercing eye looked sternly. I had the idea of God as a great detective. Science is teaching us slowly the loving immanence of God. We conceive God to be "up there." There is no "up;" what is up to-day is down to-night, and God is the Father of our spirits, a Spirit dwelling within us for our life and guidance.

God speaks thus with a quiet voice within. Do we recognize His voice? Are we sensitive to it? God is always at work. He must always be doing something. For millions of years He was making the earth, and then he made the flowers and clothed it in beauty, and then made man, his body and mind. Do you think He has ceased this business? He is working yet at the building where we think He left us. God lives. And He loves and works in us if we do not thwart His work. It is an old-fashioned lesson to believe in God, pray to God, and serve God; but amid the new light shed upon us, we can but safely cherish the fundamental truths of God's presence and guidance.—Prof. Henry Drummond.

## "Know Ye Not that Faith without Works is Dead?"

These were the deep and impressive words of St. James, which he told the people to observe, and are a warning to us in the Church to-day upon which our very salvation depends.

The great proportion of Church attendants serving the Lord have faith—the greatest abundance of faith—but have not the other great qualification necessary to make them a true child of God and for entering the Kingdom of Heaven. They which have faith alone are also in the Lord's vineyard, and are contented to sit down and behold the workers toiling on, some bringing in forty and fifty-fold, and they will not exert themselves at all, or but in the least.

The Lord Jesus said: "He that believeth in Me shall be saved." A little further on He says: "He that believeth in Me will do My Works." Therefore, we have not the "faith that liveth" without we take up the cross day by day and follow the Lord and do His works.

The Lord Jesus illustrates Faith and Works in the parable of the Talents. One of the servants (the unprofitable) was given one talent—which represents faith—but he brought forth no increase or works, therefore he was rejected and cast out.

Again: If people say they are believing in the

Lord Jesus and their actions denote that they are serving Satan, they are speaking falsely, for actions (with few exceptions) speak louder than words.

James ii. 18: "Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith and I have works; show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works."

There are tens of thousands in the churches to-day who believe they will be saved by faith alone, therefore they bring forth no works. How much are they responsible for, the condemnation of the wicked?

What the Lord wants now is earnest Christian workers—men and women who will put aside the pleasures of this world and use their faith, which word faith (applying a mechanical expression) is the tool in their hands—to go unto the harvest and work, as the harvest is plenteous, but the real labourers are few—otherwise they will receive no reward.

When that great and awful day comes when men's hearts shall fail them, when they shall call upon the rocks and mountains to cover them, then will those who have not only believed in the Master's works, but have done them, stand in the midst of the redeemed, and place their laurels, which shall shine as precious jewels, at the Saviour's feet, and exclaim: "There, Lord, the talent which you gave us has increased tenfold." Then the Lord will say: "Well done thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the kingdom prepared for you."

No salvation by faith without works. Therefore, "Let us put on the whole armour of God." Let us build our house firmly on the rock, around which the waves may rise and roll, but we are safe for eternity.

## Enjoy as You Go.

Some people mean to have a good time when their hard work is done—say, at fifty. Others plan to enjoy themselves when their children are grown up. Others mean to take their pleasure when they get to be rich, or when their business is built up on a sure foundation, or the farm is paid for, or the grind of some particular sorrow is overpast.

These individuals might as well give up ever having a good time. The season of delight which is so long waited and hoped for too rarely comes. Disease, poverty, death, claim each his victims. The lives of those whom we love, or our own, go out, and what is left?

Then take your pleasure to-day, while there is yet time. Things may not be in the best shape for that visit you have been so long planning to your only sister. It might be better if you could wait till you had a more stylish suit of clothes, or till the boy was at home from college to look after the place; but she is ready now. You are both growing old—you had better go.

Don't say, "I shall be glad when that child is grown up! What quantities of trouble he makes!" No—enjoy his cunning ways—revel in his affectionate hugs and kisses—they will not be so plenty by and by. Enjoy his childhood. It will look sweet to you when it is gone forever.

Enjoy the littles of everyday. The great favours of fortune come to but few, and those who have them tell us that the quiet, homely joys, which are within the reach of us all, are infinitely the best. Then let us not cast them away, but treasure every sunbeam, and get all the light and warmth from it that the blessing holds.

## Fellowship with God.

Fellowship is companionship; a sharing in each other's interests; an accord of the spirit; mutual understanding; mutual confidence and trust. Think of some friends with whom you have fellowship. How comforting their presence; how helpful their counsel; how comfortable the freedom of intercourse and the absence of distrust or suspicion! And think of having fellowship like that with God! Can there be anything else so desirable, so hopeful, helpful, restful, so all-satisfying as this? Can it be possible that there should be companionship, sharing of interests, accord of spirit, mutual confidence and trust between my heart and God? Can it be that He desires it? Yes, it is a possible and positive experience.