

## Sunshine and Shadow.

## A PHILOSOPHER OF MIDDLE-AGE

"I am fifty to-day," cried a middle-aged man,  
 "I am healthy and sound to the core,  
 And according to Solomon there should remain

Unto me yet of years a full score.  
 But statistics have proved, they have proved beyond doubt,

That the chances do not favor me,  
 And I'm doubtful myself, when it comes to the pinch.

That the three-score-and-ten mark I'll see.

"I have worried a lot since I started this trip,  
 I have fretted at weather and friends,

I have fought night and day in the struggle for gold,  
 Felt the joy and the woe that it sends.

Now, take notice, I've quit, for it profits me not,  
 When at best I've of years but a score.

To be dealing in jealousies, bickerings, strife,  
 Not to speak of a dozen things more:

So I'll just live along—do the best that I can,  
 Leaving others to plot and connive.

I will halt with rejoicing the sun of each day,  
 Thanking God that he's left me alive."

(Will Templer in American Agriculturist.

THE SACRAMENT OF SUFFERING.

Suffering is not always penalty. It may mean discipline for service, or even service itself. There is a sacred chalice pressed to the lips of love that selfishness can never know, and which makes suffering, at times, a very sacrament. Is not motherhood doubly sacred through its travail and its peril? The capacity for service, too, is found in the capacity for suffering. The most refractory metals yield their best strength and luster, and become useful only after the fierce heat of the blow pipe has smitten them. The chosen vessel must be recast in a different mold before it is ready for kingly service. Had Moses or Paul been capable of less suffering they could never have been molded into such chosen vessels of service. From Damascus where he was led blind into the city, to Rome where he was led out of the city to die, Paul knew what suffering meant.

How much it takes to make an apostle! Whitefield was wont to say that he had peculiar affection for Ireland, for only there had he been treated like an apostle. Only in Ireland had he ever been stoned. It is not strange that now, and then the harp strings snap as they are being drawn tight enough for some master's hand to call from them the sweetest harmony. Notes that angels might listen to, and which melt all human hearts, come from heart strings quivering with pain. They know not what they do who drive the cruel nails and thrust the thirsty spear. They may mean it for evil, but our God overrules it for good. It is the triumph at once of suffering and of grace to be able to say with Stephen—his face shining like an angel's—"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Said Disraeli, that acute observer of human nature, "They that have known grief seldom seem sad." Said a wiser than he, "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers trials, for the trial of your faith worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, and hope maketh not ashamed, for the love of God is shed abroad in your hearts by the Holy Ghost that is given unto us." (Bishop E. R. Hendrix, D D, LL D.

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What letter in the alphabet will spell potato? The letter O. Put eight O's. What bridge is warranted to support any strain? The bridge of a riddle. When is a piece of wood like an emperor? When it is made into a ruler.



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