

Such again is the power of the Gospel. It makes men true men, and nerves them with a courage that knows not what flinching is. Wicked men may be bold, rash, impetuous ; but a man who has faith in God and believes in Jesus Christ has in him the secret of true courage and genuine bravery. This is true not only of the records of martyrs, and how they kept the faith, but it is true of men in all the walks of life. The martyrs, stake has given more instances of undying and invincible courage than the battlefield, and many of the most heroic deeds of bravery on the battlefield have been done by men who were also soldiers of the cross. Thus we find the sterner virtues to be the product of the Gospel, and true courage and genuine manliness a plant which flourishes in the soil of a Christian heart. To say that Christian belief makes men weak and sentimental is to say what the whole record of history contradicts. In Jewish history, when the people of God were loyal to Him, and had strong faith in Jehovah of Hosts then these armies obtained victory on every hand ; but when faith failed and irreligions came in they fell an easy prey to any foe. So in modern times, Cromwell's army sang their psalms, offered their prayers, and heard their long sermons, and then went forward to repeated victories. William Prince of Orange in the same spirit came to Britain, at the request of a distressed people, and with a calm faith in God which was not ashamed to express itself he saved Britain from the iron heel of Popery, and laid the foundation of modern British Protestant liberty, which has made her what she is to-day among the nations of the Earth under the good hand of God. So too in private life, the strong manly virtues are found most fully developed in those who have the hope of the Gospel, and who are under its heaven born inspiration. Let us not be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, but yield ourselves wholly to its power. In every relationship of life it will make us brave. Loyalty, patriotism, fidelity, courage and bravery here flourish abundantly. In life these plants grow as the strong virtues of the Christian character, and in death courage will not fail even when we are face to face with the last enemy. Bravely then it will be ours "to die the death of the righteous 'and to have' our last end like his."

*The Gospel is also the source of tender or gentle virtues.* If the courage of Stephen is conspicuous, his patience and tenderness are not less so. If his bravery never failed, he never once lost his temper. He is arrested and put on trial in the rudest way, yet he complains not. He is accused of blasphemy,