

Nazarite vow. His life has not been one of well regulated devotion to a holy calling. He has been the victim of his own sportive wit, now driven by a fitful energy to champion Jehovah's cause, now left to himself dragging that sacred name in the mire of sensual indolence. He has stood for the greater part alone. The tribesmen have been dazzled by the meteor brightness of his prowess, or roused to anger by his ill advised alliances or conflicts with the Philistines. Still the fault is partly theirs. They have not been ready to grasp the deliverance offered them. They are cursed with a veniality that loves ease at any cost of truth and right. But Milton had more than the oppressed Israelite. in mind in his fervid lines :—

“ Had Judah that day joined, or one whole tribe,
They had by this possessed the tower of Gath,
And lorded over them whom now they serve.
But what more oft in nations grown corrupt,
And by their vices brought to servitude,
Than to love bondage more than liberty,
Bondage with ease than strenuous liberty ;
And to despise, or envy, or suspect
Whom God hath of his special favor raised
As their deliverer ; if he aught begin,
How frequent to desert him, and at last
To heap ingratitude on worthiest deeds ?”

The dialogue between Manoah and Samson is a fine example of the beauty of language drawn in simplicity and purity from the well of English undefiled. The sentiment is lofty and evenly sustained. The peasant father has seen his own life glorified in that of his son. To him the latter's overthrow comes as a crushing grief. Twice had the angel of God foretold his birth. The honor of his motherhood had lifted the life of an humble Jewish woman into proud preeminence. Together they had gazed with delight upon his infant features, while imagination pictured a glorious future wrought from fancy and divine prediction. Why do God's gifts tempt our prayers, yet draw the scorpion tail behind ?

“ O ever failing trust

In mortal strength !”

This is the explanation of the great athlete's failure. He has not shunned temptation, but has sought it. Confident in his