

all comers. For any of those who had thus ranged themselves alongside of the redoubted Templar, it would have been sore shame and an indelible stain upon their knight-hood to hang back when an opponent's spear-point had once sounded its invitation on their shield. There could be no refusing consistently with honour. With Christ and His soldiers it is even so. He declined not the mortal challenge of the great enemy Himself. In the wilderness, in Gethsemane, they met in dread encounter. Such a passage of arms the onlooking hosts of angels had never witnessed ; but after moments of terrible suspense the victory was assured and the great enemy lay prone. But they who have thrown in their lot with Christ must expect—each in his turn—their challenge too. The weakened foe may yet retrieve his discomfiture in part by overthrowing in his turn these lesser champions. And it concerns Christ's honour and their own that they should not flinch from taking up the gage of battle. Not till the world's evening will the tourney close ; but then shall come the crowning, the banquet, the repose. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment, he shall eat of the hidden manna, he shall sit down with the Victor in His throne.

How, then, it may be asked, does it consist with honour to pray, "Lead us not into temptation"? An incident of the Battle of Creci suggests itself to me here. From the Black Prince's division, where the fight was raging fierce and doubtful, there came to the English king an urgent request for a reinforcement. "Edward, who from a windmill watched the chances of the battle, and the movements of the armies, inquired if his son were killed or wounded. The messenger replied, 'No.' 'Then,' said he, 'tell Warwick that he shall have no assistance. Let the boy win his spurs. He and those who have him in charge shall earn the whole glory of the day'" (Lingard). The king had led his son into temptation. He had brought him into this battle to try what metal he was of, to give him the chance fairly and honourably to win his spurs. The ordeal was a severe one for the young soldier. He felt himself failing under it. The desire to be