

not this, so that temptation to evil, if any, that is left is left over on decision for good. We could live and act so differently—only, it is just these drawbacks, these dead antages, these hindrances that are the cross that the Master bids us take up daily if we would be His disciples, the tests that are to prove our love, the weaknesses in which His strength is made perfect, the needs for which the riches of His glory are the all-sufficient supply. The more arduous the post in the battle-field the higher the honour of victory. It is not those who create most stir in the world, not those whose praises have been in every man's mouth, whose virtues have been most extolled, that at the last shall reap the richest reward; but rather those who in lowly and obscure positions have fought the good fight, who in secret conflict have striven against sin, who have been faithful to their Lord amidst weakness and discouragement, who have endured hardness unknown and unpraised of men, that will take high place in the day of victory. The last shall be first, and the first last: those who have been faithful in a few things shall be made rulers over many things. The fight is a fight of faith, a trust in One Whom having not seen, we love, an enduring as seeing Him Who is invisible. It is the bringing of our hearts and minds and all that is in us into subjection to Christ, the laying upon His altar of everything, however dearly cherished, that He would bid us sacrifice, the casting down of imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against God, the yielding of our wills to His will, the conforming of our lives to His life, the bringing into captivity of every

thought to the obedience of Christ, the daily making clean of our sinful bodies by His body, the washing of our souls by His blood, loving one another because this is His new commandment, bearing one another's burdens because to do so is to fulfil the law of Christ, being holy in all manner of conversation because He Who hath called us is holy, mortifying our members that are upon the earth that when Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, we may also appear with Him in glory, keeping ourselves pure because our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost, reckoning ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin that we may be alive unto God through Jesus Christ.

As we enter upon another year's stage of the conflict, let us take renewed assurance to our hearts that we are not left alone or unaided. "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," is the promise of our risen Lord. He who is able to keep us from falling, Who was in all points tempted like as we are, Whose love is beyond a brother's, Whose compassions are infinite, promises to be our helper and our guide. We are all weakness, but Christ is all mighty; we are by nature the slaves of sin, but Christ has brought deliverance to those that are bound: our souls are in darkness, but Christ is the light of the world; we have gone astray like lost sheep, but Christ is the good Shepherd. May we as never before yield ourselves wholly and unreservedly to Christ; and know and prove that to fight the good fight of faith is to fight under Christ's banner; to lay hold on eternal life is to lay hold of Christ, Who hath the words of eternal life.

