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The Best We Have.

Christ gives the best. He in the far-off

ages
 Once claimed the firstling of the flock, the finest of the wheat,
 And still he asks his own with greatest blessing.

To lay their highest hopes and brightest talents at his feet.
 He'll not forget the feeblest service, humblest love.

He only asks that of our store we give to him

The best we have.

Christ gives the best. He takes the hearts we offer

And fills them with his glorious beauty, joy, and peace.

And in his service, as we're growing stronger,
 The calls to grand achievements still increase.

The richest gifts for us on earth, or in the heaven above,

Are hid in Christ. In Jesus we receive
 The best we have.

And is our best too much? O friends, let us remember

How once our Lord poured out his soul for us,
 And in the prime of his mysterious manhood

Gave up his precious life upon the cross!
 The Gods of lords, by whom the worlds were made,

Through bitter grief and tears gave us
 The best he had.

—The Interior.

A Merry Heart.

A merry heart will cure laggard work.
 "Father, what is an optimist?" the boy asked. The father thought a little, and then said, "Now, sonny, you know I can't give ye the dictionary meanin' of that word, no more'n I can of a great many others. But I've got a kind of an idee what it means. Probably you don't remember your Uncle Henry, but I guess if there ever was an optimist he was one. Things was always comin' out right with Henry, and especially anything hard that he had to do; it wa'n't-a-goin' to be hard—'twas just kind of solid, pleasant. Take hoein' corn, now. If anything kind of took the tucker out of me, 'twas hoein' corn in the hot sun. But in the field, long about the time I began to lag back a little, he'd look up an' say, 'Good, Jim! When we get these two rows hoed, an' eighteen more, the piece'll be half done!' An' he'd say it in such a kind of a cheerful way that I couldn't a ben any more tickled if the piece had been all done—an' the rest 'wold go light enough." Anybody can see, if a man goes at his work with a heart like that, whether his work be hoeing corn, or merchandising, or school teaching, or clerking, or carpentering, or preaching, his work will be swiftly and well done.—*Dr. Wayland Hoyt.*

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