

fierce. Many a passion, many a proud imagination, many a wayward feeling, must be slain. The watchers watch with anxious hopes and fears. But in His own good time, Christ by His grace enables us to slay the last sin—to hush the last mutinous murmur, to cast out the last trace of enmity, and unbelief, and coward fear. And then the angels and the saints will join in the triumphant acknowledgement: "Here is retribution for the blood shed on Calvary!"

As soldiers of Christ we must not only conquer sin and evil in ourselves; we must fight our Master's battles in society around us. You must possess your soul in patience, and prove yourself faithful in the sentry-box as well as in the battle field. A lazy soldier will neither win nor wear laurels; he cannot have the approval of conscience or of God. He must count on discomfort, disaster and shame. Be yours the ceaseless vigil, the burning, wearing energy, rather than the slumbering slothfulness which shuts the eye to danger till too late,—which, for degrading ease, will sacrifice a crown and Kingdom,—which cries peace when there is no peace, and turns away the ear from the call of the trumpet summoning to glorious war.

The "good fight of faith" is not merely to enlist among God's people, break off bad habits, "join the Church," go to the Lord's table, and perform the usual round of religious duties. These are all good and needful in their place; yet without the *faithful heart* they but constitute the robe of the hypocrite, which must shrivel up and perish in a moment at the first flash of the Judgment flames. Without faith in Jesus Christ it is impossible to please God. Outward reformation and morality, springing from other principles than faith and love and the fear of God, will make you but like the poor poltroon who creeps into a red coat and then imagines himself a fine soldier.

Fight the good fight of faith against ignorance and ungodliness in the family, in the Church, in society at large. Fight against superstition and error, whether they come under the mantle of science or in the

guise of religion. Fight against intemperance in all its forms and phases. Contend earnestly for the truth as it is in Jesus.—All truth is important; but the great doctrines of the Trinity, of Christ's divinity, His atonement, His death and resurrection, His ascension, and His coming again to punish the impenitent and reward the righteous,—these are so vital that without them Christianity collapses into a sham, and its profession becomes a mere mockery.

In this fight woe to him that putteth his trust in man and that maketh flesh his arm and whose heart departeth from the Lord! The first step to victory is to put your trust in the Lord. Then at every stage of the conflict you will hear His voice bidding you be strong and of good courage, for the Lord thy God, He it is that goeth with thee. He will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Forward then in the strength of God! Let *Onward* and *Upward* be your motto. Conquer new ground for Christ every day, and bring enemies captive to His footstool.

Be sober, be vigilant, for your adversary, the Devil, goeth about seeking whom he may devour. Nothing serves his cruel purposes so well as when Christians, instead of fighting the good fight of faith, madly and disastrously fight as Ephraim against Judah and Judah against Ephraim. Verily Christians will have far more than enough to do though they should reserve all their sharp arrows and hard blows for the common foe!

Those who know nothing of this "good fight," who have enjoyed the world in peace, need not congratulate themselves on their position. It is a false and fatal peace, it is war with God and all that is good and true and holy. Peace with an evil heart, an evil world, and Satan, means enmity to Christ and all the unspeakably awful consequences of such a state of mind and heart. It is the brooding calm that foretells the hurricane; the hush that precedes the earthquake; the stillness in which the deadly pestilence revels; the slumber that ends in eternal death!