

SERMON.

“CHRISTIAN MANLINESS.”

*“ Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit
you like men, be strong.”*

1 Cor. xvi. 13.

This is a trumpet-call to the cultivation of a robust Christian personality. The one thing which St. Paul desires for those Corinthian Christians is, that every man of them should be himself—should stand on his own feet—see with his own eyes—believe with his own spirit—be strong in a manliness which is his very own. From all we know of the apostle's character, that is just the counsel which we should have expected from him. It is not a little significant, however, that he, of all the apostles, should have been exceptionally strong alike in what may be called the womanly, as in the manly side of the Christian character. No one ever wrote so tenderly as he, of the place and power of love, among the Christian graces. No one ever so glorified heroic resolve, manly courage, chivalrous devotion, both by precept and example. Significant, no doubt; but not strange. The Christ taught no one-sided faith. His gospel would cultivate and develop, each in their own degree, both the feminine and the masculine types of character,—the emotional and the intellectual,—the spiritual and the muscular. Christianity could only thus offer full scope for the play of every individuality, and lay no arrest on the idiosyncrasy of any human being. That great fact must be kept constantly in view, by him who would be a true interpreter of Our Holy Religion.