

our patience it is a fit of madness ; it is a getting angry, and where anger is love cannot be, neither can heaven be there, for heaven has nothing opposed to love. Add to love, the most powerful thing in the world, patience, the most enduring, and you will overcome all opposition and all difficulties.

Besides being a necessity to a Christian life, patience is expedient to success in the undertakings of temporal life.

How many years of patient study, and of repeated refusals from one crowned head after another did Columbus witness before his undaunted patience won a hearing, and an outfit, and then how many anxious days and nights of weary, patient watching passed before the new world burst upon his sight ?

Have you ever read the story of Cyrus W. Field, how he was baffled by stupendous difficulties when attempting to lay the first Atlantic cable, and see the glorious result, news flashed from continent to continent in a few moments. Columbus and patience brought to light the new world ; patience and Cyrus W. Field linked the new world with the old.

You may recall that patient march of Hannibal with his Carthaginian army over the rock and snow capped Alps during the dead of winter. It is said that he blasted the insurmountable rocks with fire and vinegar to make a road for his soldiers, and when spring came he was before the walls of Rome, and would have taken the city, the bitter rival of Carthage, had it not been for one Roman who possessed more patience even than Hannibal. This Roman is known to this day as Fabius Cunctator—Fabius, the Delayer, or the man of patience. Hannibal has the name of being the greater general ; but Fabius conquered nevertheless, and modest patience is for once crowned with the victor's laurels.

Let us turn to pleasanter themes, where patience is king, though uncrowned. The poetry of Wordsworth was not

appreciated by his contemporaries, but he continued to write after his high ideal and had patience to wait till long after his death for admirers.

It was the ten years of patient reading and revising that made Gray's "Elegy in a Country Church Yard," the masterpiece of perfect art that critics acknowledge it to be. Someone has said that *genius* is eternal patience. If it be so, would it not be wise to cultivate the habit of patience ? It will repay us abundantly.

If any wrong us, let us not lose patience, and do evil back, but wait for an opportunity to return good. We may feel indignant at the time, but let us check this feeling before it ripens into act, let us call on patience to escort us to the council hall for advice, and ere we leave our envious feelings will give place to those of love and good will.

If any one speak evil of us through envy to blacken our character, let us bear it with patience, and live it down with good will and pure lives. You cannot bury a sunbeam. You cannot slander virtue, but patience will bring it to the light of day again.

If you have any undertaking on hand have patience, labor on, work on, toil on. Look to the result and faint not on the way. It is he that holds out to the end that wins the race. If you wish to row across the Niagara, keep your eye on the other shore, and vigorously, patiently, paddle on. If you lose patience and want to go faster, the stream will bear you rapidly along, but only to shoot you over the precipice. Many an undertaking, ah many a life, for lack of patience has ended thus.

If you are engaged in reform work, such as temperance, you cannot succeed without patience. How many many years ago the Society of Friends took the initiatory step in doing away with intoxicating drinks ! With persistent patience they first freed their own body, then with undaunted patience, having the end in view, they