

## The Christian Life.

### THE VETERAN.

BY J. M. LYONS.

Lying on the field of battle,  
March and conflict now no more;  
Only waiting further orders  
From the brighter, better shore,—  
Here I gaze in retrospection  
Over years forever flown.  
Happy meetings! cherished comrades!  
Ah, methinks I'm left alone!

Yes, I seem to hear their voices,  
As they come in greeting near—  
Charming sounds, delightful visions,  
Spirit-like to disappear;  
Some are in the heat of action,  
Some have vict'ries yet to gain;  
Battling well for such a Leader  
Effort shall not be in vain.

Now I look across the river  
And a wondrous light behold,  
Lo, across the darksome waters  
Shines a path of beamy gold.  
O the notes of blessed harpers  
Sweetly float thro' balmy air,  
And I soon, my Loving Saviour,  
Shall, with lov'd ones praise Thee  
there.

—*Christian Work.*

### A VITALIZED FAITH.

Is Christianity declining? This is a question that is in many hearts. With the advent of a wider range of thought, a more liberal outlook, and a less chance of being considered a heretic, the average Christian has come into a supine indifference and reprehensible thought. Too much freedom has its drawbacks as well as too much bondage. In all cases it is well to take a moderate pace in the thought of the advancement of retrogression of the church. We are not ready to give assent to the avowed thought of some, that the church is declining, that faith is dead, and the world and church are ready to strike hands, because the church cannot overcome the world. That there is ample ground for complaint we will not deny it. But, to think that indifference has so overcome the Christian church as to cause her to lose her hold on God and man, is too much.

The history of the past testifies that the storm is preceded by a calm, and if all indications do not fail, the storm will soon be upon us, in the awakened consciences of our people and their desire to see men saved from sin. That the times are ripe for this is conceded by many of the foremost men in the pulpit, and the feeling is shared by many in the pews. If we can now have a concerted move on the part of the pulpit and the pew, there is no reason to doubt that the great awakening, so long desired and prayed for, cannot speedily be brought to our doors.

While it is true that faith, in many hearts, seems to have been weakened by recent events, yet we are loath to believe that it is true that they cannot be awakened to a greater exertion, and a more energetic attitude for the cause of God and humanity. Faith is not dead. Faith needs a direct and definite God to be the object

of worship and service, and as soon as the mind of man will get such a conception of God before it, it will awake to intense earnestness and prolonged activity in church and home.

In too many hearts there is a notion of a dim and shadowy God, living in the dim ages of the past, but not in touch with us today. A friend indeed of the prophets, of Paul, Peter, and John, but to ask us to have the same thought of the same God in the same relation to us, is out of the question. I have thought of God in some such way, and it has been a struggle to make my own heart see and know God as a present helper, God, friend, and master. Let us get this conception before the minds of men today and we shall begin to have the same power they had, see the same results they saw, and in short, have the same unction in the life we now live, as they did. Cast out the shadow and give us the substance, take away the God of doubt and fear, and present to men a real living God, Christ, and a true heaven and men will begin to live for them.

The men of olden times lived in intimate communion with God. They took his word as the rule and guide of their lives. The Spirit spake, they heard and obeyed. Doubt, fear, uncertainty were things they had nothing to do with, they lived in the hearing of God's voice, and the hearing that voice was the signal for them to do, and to obey God rather than man was the whole of life to them. Let us give an impetus to the thought of this later day, by having the same definite conception of God and our own responsibility, and the tasks that appear so great will fade into nothingness.

A glance into the past tells its own story. Paul preached the Gospel of a living Christ. Today we preach a historical Christ. Paul was able to move men. We stir men's souls only as we preach the same Saviour and Christ, and the same Gospel adapted to every condition of life and business.

It was no armed force that overthrew Rome. It was the Gospel of a living Christ. The vital faith of a handful of Christians, who saw Jesus by their side, who were willing to suffer and die, rather than surrender their faith to the howling mob, which demanded their blood. They had a faith of backbone and power in the time of need. This faith ought to be ours, yea it is, for men are as bold in God as they, but it needs the awakening of the individual to make it a power for good in the hands of the church and among men.

Make real the personality of God and Christ, bring such personality into the life of our faith, and we shall be infinitely better for it. The faith we need is the faith for this life as well as for the life to come. Heaven begins below, and those who seek God find him everywhere. Such faith nerves the arm for the blow, the heart for its tasks, and the soul for its triumphs. It makes the Bible a divine book, God a real person, and our Saviour a present help ever at our call, and it gives us the victory over the world, flesh and the devil.—*Chris. Work.*

### WEAKNESS AND STRENGTH.

God has taken a great many weak people and has made them strong. They were found like sand into which a baby could plunge its soft hand, but they became like granite, like flint, like diamond upon which the edge of every tool is turned.

In this there is great encouragement for every man who feels his weakness; and every one who has felt the touch of the strengthening hand is moved with hopeful sympathy for others as he says with Paul, "who is weak, and I am not weak?" If a great host of common people who were without strength become mighty through God, why should we doubt that submission to the same process will accomplish the same end.

How we have wished for strength! There was a work to do and we could not do it. The hand was white and thin and without power. The work was left undone.

There was a burden to be borne. To get under the burden meant to be crushed. The shoulder never felt it. There was a temptation to be resisted. The will was only a wall of bending reeds over which the tide swept unchecked. How we have sighed for strength to do, to bear, to stand on our feet unmoved. In that day we would have been wise men had we stopped at this clause and studied it, had we taken to ourselves its promise, "Out of weakness were made strong."

It must not be thought that the doing of this is a small matter, a work easily or soon done. The forces which can make human character out of sand into granite are infinite forces and the processes by which they work are divinely wise. Does that discourage? It should not. It is not ours to discover those forces and to learn the secrets of those processes. We are but the material, sentient, intelligent, glad to lie under the almighty hand of Him who knows His own methods. On the other hand let it not be thought that all that is needed for the supplanting of weakness by strength is time, and the growth which time brings. A child goes on from its piny helpless condition to manhood's power; but not all men whose Christian years are many, are virile. It is well to be patient with ourselves, with our weakness even, if we are not trusting merely to the passing of the years to bring us strength.

The one thing to remember always is that changing weakness into strength is the work of God, and whatever His methods may be, whether long or abrupt, painful or delightful, continuous or broken, our only part in it is the maintenance of a faith which loves and welcomes His ways and works and so keep the soul under his transforming touch. If only we will believe in God, He can help us, can make us strong.

But are we sure that we are moving in this direction—from weakness to strength? Sometimes men, like nations, go from strength to weakness, and if it is always grievous to find weakness where strength should be it is unspeakably grievous to find weakness where strength has been. The other day the writer walked along the shore of Lake Ontario, with which he was familiar as a boy. He found the bank so changed as to be very strange in appearance. The well remembered cliffs, bored in a thousand places by swallows nests,

great red boulder which was never budged by repeated efforts to roll it over the edge, the oak tree beneath which we stripped, are all gone, down into the lake they have gone. By a process not rapid but continuous the waters washing and lapping have eaten the bank away. Had the bank been rock like this granite isle on which these words are being written, it would have stood unchanged through a man's lifetime. Had it been an earth bank full of springs it would have gone sooner. Some men are like the bank full of springs, and they soon crumble when the action of the ocean of evil without is concurrent with the action of evil springs within.

Is this for me? Can God do it for me? and will he do it? My spiritual weakness cannot glorify him. Shall I not ask then that he will make me strong?—*Can. Baptist.*

### Many Sudden Deaths

Are traced to a heart that was neglected. If your heart is weak or beats too rapidly, you need Ferrozone to strengthen the heart's muscles, regulate its action and stop smothering spasms. Ferrozone always cures weak heart and restores this organ to a strong, healthy state. The best heart medicine in the world is Ferrozone, which beats any substitute. Widely used by doctors and sold at 50c. per box by all druggists.

A good Methodist asked the Rev. John Wesley what he thought as to his marrying a certain young woman well known to both. Wisely advised him not to think of it.

"Why?" said the other. "She is a member of our church, isn't she?"

"I believe she is," said Wesley.

"Well, then why not marry her?"

"Because," said Wesley, "the Lord can live with a great many people that you and I can't."

*The Crick in the Back.*—"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin," sings the poet. But what about the touch of rheumatism and lumbago, which is so common now? There is no poetry in that touch, for it renders life miserable. Yet how delightful is the sense of relief when an application of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil drives pain away. There is nothing equals it.

Truth and love are two of the most powerful things in the world, and when they both go together, they can not easily be withstood.

There are so many cough medicines in the market, that it is sometimes difficult to tell which to buy; but if we had a cough, a cold or any affliction of the throat or lungs, we would try Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. Those who have used it think it is far ahead of all other preparations recommended for such complaints. The little folks like it as it is pleasant as syrup.

Some can go, most can give, all can pray.

*A Soothing Oil.*—To throw upon the troubled waters means to subdue to calmness the most boisterous sea. To apply Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil to the troubled body when it is racked with pain means speedy subjugation of the most refractory elements. It cures pain, heals bruises, takes the fire from wounds, and as a general household medicine is useful in many ailments. It is worth much.