

Hold Fast

BY MRS. J. H. HAN.

Vanquished? no! never in the race for right:
Behind a cloud the sun may hide from sight,
But does not lose an atom of his light:
Hold fast!

The soldier true upon the blood-stained field
Must country, honor, duty, never shield
May die, but cannot falter, cannot yield:
Hold fast!

The ship that bravely luffs wind and tide,
Shall over stormy billows proudly ride,
And shall triumphant into haven glide:
Hold fast!

Faint not! the cause you'll find to be right
Lest it in chaos, weakness, shame would end,
If right, a force thro' coming years will send,
Hold fast!

Be true! tho' laurel never deck your brow,
And firm, tho' disappointments greet you now,
And know that false-nest true at least
Must bow:
Hold fast!

And you in giving, lift up self to show,
For as you fight your muscles stronger grow,
Rewards celestial from your efforts flow:
Hold fast!

The victory is sure that the year
Will summing when tempests disap-
pear:
Away with doubt, with unavailing fear:
Hold fast!

Bright the triumphal noon when struggles
O'er,
You reap the gain and evils rage no more,
Brave heart! string hand! that pens free-
dom's door:
Hold fast!

The Ideal Home.

We may build a house, enter it,
and call it home; but unless it is
the place above all others for soul
culture and mental growth, it seems
almost sacrilegious to give it that
endearing name. An ideal home
may be in an unpretending cottage
as well as in a palace. In either
case love must be the pivot on which
the intricate machinery of home du-
ties turns. If we desire a model
home, we must be willing to work
for it—with brain and heart as well
as hands.

Children should receive their first
lessons in usefulness around the
family hearthstone. Very early
should they be taught that their
own desires must be made subser-
vient to the comfort of the family.
Were this rule generally followed,
there would be fewer selfish exas-
terations, and the home-life would be
largely filled with generous disinter-
ested deeds.

If more time and pains were taken
to make homes—homes worthy of
the name—the wrong-doings of sons
and daughters would not so often
plant thorns in the pillows of their
parents during their declining years.

Though the mother should take a
certain portion of her time for social
duties, as a rule she should be found
at home to welcome husband and
children when they return from the
care and lessons of the day. Every-
thing seems dreary and cheerless
when mother is away. There are
no sweet smiles and loving words of
welcome; no one to enquire about
the successes and failures of the
work undertaken. The remem-
brance of a loving word or smile
will often gladden the whole day.
Mother-tact will do much toward in-
venting ways and means to interest
the little flock growing up around
her; but to have a real home, the
father must contribute his part to-
wards making the house in which
his family dwells more than a mere
shelter from the summer's heat and
the winter's cold. His leisure hours
belong to his wife and children; and
no matter how dull the home-life may
be, it is his duty to help share the
burdens and cares of the one he has
promised to love, cherish and pro-
tect.

If parents would take more inter-
est in the amusements of their chil-
dren, there would be less danger of
them entering forbidden paths of
pleasure when they are called to
leave the home that has sheltered
their childhood. Young people
must have recreation of some kind.
It is natural and necessary, and needs
much thought and care.

People sometimes wonder why
the sons and daughters of religious
parents so often go astray. But
until more of the "spirit" and less
of the "letter" of Christianity is
manifested in our home discipline,
we must not accept ideal homes or
model children. As we sow, we
shall reap.

The Lord Will Provide.

A man, worth a hundred thousand
dollars, was complaining of hard
times; an employee, who was de-
pendent upon his daily earnings,
tried to console him by saying, "It
might be worse," and then related
an experience: His wife was sick
and expected to die, he had to quit
business and stay with her. A son
was earning a dollar and a quarter
a week. The coal gave out; he
could not buy on credit, so he bought
ten cents worth, all he had, and
carried it home in a basket. This
kept fire all night. Next morning
he went to the back yard to find
something with which to make a
fire, and found nothing. Bursting
into tears, he said, "Lord you see
how it is." Just then he was called
to the front gate. A man said,
"Here is a load of coal for you."
"No," said he, "I have not ordered
any." "Yes," said the driver, "it
is for your name and number."
Weeks, perhaps months, after-

ward, he learned that in utter ig-
norance of the strait he was in, the
widow of Bishop Morris had sent
the coal just at the right time. The
ravens fed Elijah when he was in
need. It is no matter whether they
were men or birds, they came at the
right time, and we are sent by the
Lord. Who was the richer, the
employer or the employee? The
one had nothing but his limited
wealth, the other inexhaustible re-
sources. It matters not what the
man of the world may have, it is
limited and liable to exhaustion.
On the other hand it matters not
how little of this world's goods the
faithful servant of God may have,
he has a check upon the exhaustless
stores of creation and providence—
"All are yours." "As I live, saith
the Lord, the cruse of oil shall not
fail, and the barrel of meal shall not
waste." See! he hath sworn to it.
"Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled
in heaven." Men should not
swear, because an oath proper
pledges something, and men have
nothing to pledge. Heaven is God's
throne, earth his footstool, and you
have no power over your head to
make one hair white or black. Man
has no power or right to pledge any-
thing; nothing is his, not even him-
self, for he is "bought with a price."
God only has the power or right to
make oath in any proper sense of
the term. And, in order to make
assurance doubly sure—not make
his promise more certain, but—
"That they might have strong con-
solation," he has confirmed his
promise by an oath. And, since
he could swear by no greater, he
swears by himself. "As I live,"
saith the Lord. His very being
and perfections, his attributes and
all the resources of providence and
creation, backed by all the energies
of omnipotence, are pledged to the
fulfillment of his word. "Heaven
and earth shall pass away, but my
Word shall not pass away." Hear
the sublime oath, ye fearful, des-
ponding ones; listen, and be assured
and comforted!

Importance of Humble Toil.

When the humble toiler ceases
to serve, it means that the doctor
will be no longer driven to your
door; the newspaper train will not
arrive again; the omnibus will cease
to run; the post-car will come to
a stand in the road; the locomotive
will rust in the station; the ship
will be arrested on the sea, and the
captain and passengers will perish
in their cabins. No news would
come any more from kinsmen in
distant countries; no message would
go out from us to them; the tele-
graph would be mute. No labor
means desolation. When toil ceases,
the fire will go out on the hearth;
light will be extinguished in the
dwelling and the street. Every
town will be in darkness; no pro-
tection will then be had; the dead
will lie unburied where they die.
Then loathsome odors will arise;
deadly exhalations will spread them-
selves about unchecked; fevers will
crawl about human dwellings like
snakes, piercing with stings that
kill; the Angel of Death will move
over city and hamlet, over land and
sea, unhindered, unimpeded, unde-
layed. If higher forms of artistic
labor continued, they would not
last long. The author would have
neither paper nor ink; the painter
no pigments; the singer of "undying
songs" would have to get his own
coals; and the artist who paints
"immortal pictures" would have to
empty his own dust bin.

Of course, labor can not cease; if
it did, the poor would die as well as
the rich; but since, as any one can
see, labor largely and mainly minis-
ters to wealth, wealth should have
the wisdom to take care that labor
shall have security, and enjoyment
in the life which is. It is the policy
of cooperation to bring this to pass.
There would be no Whitechapel,
whose squalid monotony is only re-
lieved by murder, were labor ade-
quately required.—*New Review*.

No Work That Pays Better.

It costs something to be a good
mother. There is no more exacting
and exhausting work in the world
than a true mother's work. But
there is no work in all the world
that pays better. No reward in
God's service is surer, richer, grander
than the reward to a faithful and
faith-filled mother.

And as to the idea that a mother
can neglect this work in the earlier
years of her children's life, and make
it up to better advantage in their
later years, that is as baseless in
fact as it is in philosophy. No
mother on earth ever yet won her
child's freest, truest confidence in its
mature years if she had failed of
securing it before that period. No
mother would deserve such confi-
dence if she deliberately postponed
their seeking until then.

It may be—it often is—a wise
mother's duty to be measurably sepa-
rated from her children in their
later training, when they must be
at school or at labour; or in the en-
joyment of well-chosen companion-
ship outside of their home; but this
should never be accepted as a neces-

sity until the mother's hold on the
children's confidence is so strong,
through the experience of the years
that are gone, that only the close of
life can diminish, can change the
conscience-power of that hold.

As a rule, a child's taste, and
character, and trend in life and even
its permanent destiny, are practi-
cally shaped before the child is seven
years of age. A mother's failure of
a motherly devotedness in those
first seven years can never be made
good by seven times seven years of
devotedness thereafter.

Read Helpful Verses.

How many of you, as you take up
the Bible for the morning devotions,
turn to something which will be of
practical use through the busy day
at whose threshold you pause to ren-
der homage to Him whose kindly
presence you need throughout its
hours? There are strong helpful
words, that will, thus read, stay by
children as they go off to the school-
room, stay by your wife at home,
ring sweet music in your own soul
all day long. "As much as lieth in
you, live peaceably with all men," may
keep your boy out of a fight. "Study
to show thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be
ashamed," may help him to over-
come the temptation to do a little
cheating in his lessons. "Even
Christ pleased not himself," the
memory of that verse may help your
girl to be unselfish and kind. Read
the Bible in course; read it so with
your family if you like, but when
you gather them around you in that
precious morning time, give them as
a key-note for the day some helpful
Old Testament story of faith and
its reward, a psalm full of praise or
consecration, sweet words of comfort
and counsel from the lips of Christ
and His apostles. If you are press-
ed by cares and have time but for a
few verses, let them be words that
shall be "echoes of blessing" all day,
and God alone knows how much
good may be the result of thus
"rightly dividing the word of truth."

What Made A Boy A Missionary.

Dr. Cyrus Hamlin has told in a
five minute speech how it was he
came to be a missionary. He said:
"In the vast majority of cases mis-
sionaries are made by the influence
of the family. My widowed mother
made me a missionary. She had me
read every Sunday out of the
Panoplist, and then later out of the
Missionary Herald. We had in
those days in our town a missionary
contribution box, a cent box, and
we were encouraged to earn some
special cents for that box."

"I remember well one occasion
which was, I think, a turning point
in my experience. When the fall
muster came every boy had a pocket
full of cents to spend. My mother
gave me seven cents, saying, as she
gave them, 'Perhaps you will put a
cent or two into the contribution
box in Mrs. Farrar's porch on the
common.' So I began to think as
I went along, shall I put in one or
two? Then I thought two cents
was pretty small, and I came up to
three—three cents for the heathen
and four for gingerbread; but that
did not sound right, did not satisfy
me, so I turned it the other way,
and said four cents shall go for the heathen.
Then I thought, the boys
will ask me how much I have to
spend, and three cents is rather too
small a sum to talk about. 'Hang
it all,' I said, 'I'll put the whole in.'
And in it all went.

"When I told mother some years
afterward that I was going to be a
missionary, she broke down, and
said 'I always expected it.'"

How to Kill a Prayer-meeting.

1. Forget all about it until the
hour arrives.
2. Come ten minutes late and
sit near the door.
3. Drag the music slow, painful-
ly slow; such singing is so appro-
priate for a dead prayer-meeting.
4. When the meeting is begun,
wait for others to speak or pray.
5. When you do take part, occu-
py about twenty minutes.
6. Be sure to bewail the low
spiritual condition of the church.
7. When the meeting closes go
out as from a funeral. You can
speak with your brethren or the
stranger some other time and place.
8. If you mention the meeting
during the week, tell how dull it
was.
9. If this does not kill the prayer-
meeting, stay away entirely for six
months or a year.—*Pittsfield Metho-
dist*.

WE HEAR a deal about overwork
in these days. In all professions
and callings multitudes are com-
plaining that they are driven to
death. In some cases this ground is
well taken, but in most cases it is
not overwork, but overworry, or
overeating, or needless exposure, or
overindulgence of the appetites that
is sending the people to the hospital,
the mad-house, and premature
graves. Body and mind are so con-
stituted that they will endure an
immense amount of work if proper
care is taken of the health.

Cast A Line For Yourself.

From the baby in the cradle to
strong healthy-bodied men and
women, there are plenty of people
in the world who are ready to beg
help without themselves raising a
finger in their own behalf.

A young man stood listlessly
watching some anglers on a bridge.
He was poor and dejected. At last
approaching a basket well filled
with wholesome-looking fish, he
thought, "If now I had these I
could be happy. I could sell them
at a fair price, and buy me food
and lodgings."

I will give you just as many, and
just as good fish, said the owner,
who chanced to overhear his words,
if you will do me a trifling favour.

And what is that? said the other,
eagerly.

Only to watch this line until I
come back. I wish to go on a short
errand.
The proposal was gladly accepted.
The old fisherman was gone so long
that the young man began to be
impatient. Meantime, however,
the hungry fish snapped greedily at
the baited hook, and the young man
lost his depression in the excitement
of pulling them in, and when the
owner of the line returned, he had
caught a large number. Counting
out from them as many as were in
the basket, and presenting them to
the young man, the fisherman said:
I fulfill my promise with the fish
you have caught, to teach you,
whenever you see others earning
what you need, to waste no time in
fruitless wishing, but to cast a line
for yourself.

How to Make Life Happy.

Take time; it is no use to foam
or fret, or do as the angry house-
keeper who has got hold of the
wrong key, and pushes, shakes and
rattles it about the lock until both
are broken and the door is still un-
opened.

The chief secret of comfort lies in
not suffering trifles to vex us, and
in cultivating our undergrowth of
small pleasures.

Try to regard present vexations
as you will regard them a month
hence.

Since we cannot get what we like
let us like what we can get.

It is not riches, it is not poverty,
it is human nature that is the trouble.

The world is like a looking-glass.
Laugh at it and it laughs back;
frown at it and it frowns back.

Angry thoughts canker the mind
and dispose it to the worst temper
in the world—that of fixed malice
and revenge. It is while in this
temper that most men become crim-
inals.

Show your sense by saying much
in a few words.

Try to speak some kind word or
do some kind deed each day of your
life. You will be amply repaid.

Set your work to song.—*Wash-
ington Post*.

A Case for Moral Courage.

One kind of moral courage, says
an Exchange, and a very important
one, is often found sadly wanting in
the lives of many excellent people.
While they are brave enough to en-
dure physical suffering without a
word of complaint; while they are
generally prompt to take up and
carry every cross which the Master
places in their way; and while in
all other cases they are really faith-
ful to Christian duty, and endure
hardness as soldiers of Jesus Christ,
they lack the moral courage to re-
sist a display in modes of living
that is entirely beyond their means.
An ambition for a better style of
living is not necessarily sinful. It
may imply nothing more than a
laudable self-respect; a desire to
gratify which, without a neglect of
duty, is commendable. The world
moves upward and heavenward in
just that way. But we go wrong
in this matter, and dishonor our
Christian profession, when we en-
deavor upon means not ours to imi-
tate the selfish and silly display of
our more wealthy neighbors. To
do this is an indication of a lack of
moral courage, if not of saving
grace. The blessing of the Lord
maketh rich. It is often manifest
ed in temporal blessings to those
not too greedy.

The Tired-out Housemother.

And when you go home at night
and find her jaded and worn, think
of some way in which to help her,
instead of finding fault with your
surroundings and hurling harsh
words at her. She is just as tired
as you are and has worked as many
hours at home battling with the
children and the servants, or, when
there are none of the latter, battl-
ing with the monotonous housework,
doing the same things to-day which
she did yesterday and knows she
will have to do to-morrow, until it
is not strange that she becomes dis-
heartened and thinks her life is
"one eternal grind," like poor Man-
tlini, who, however, used a strong-
er adjective than I have done.

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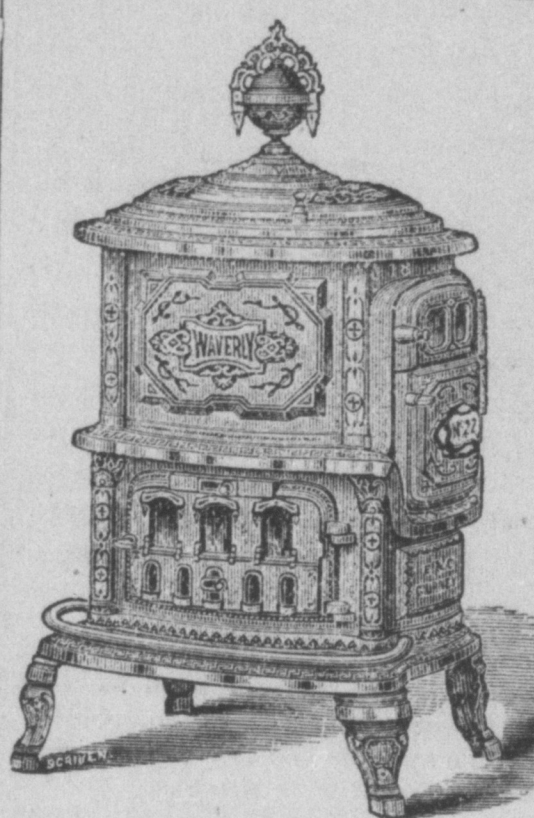
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1880.....	141,402.81	911,132.93	3,881,478.09
1882.....	254,841.73	1,073,577.94	5,849,889.1
1884.....	278,378.65	1,274,397.24	6,844,404.04
1885.....	319,987.05	1,411,004.38	7,030,878.77
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