

THE DYING WORDS OF GREAT MEN AND WOMEN

Some time ago an article appeared in a popular magazine written by a country doctor entitled "Eleven Thousand Hearts," in which the writer portrayed from his long experience as a physician the realities of the death scenes of his patients who answered the last summons.

"Over many death beds," says the doctor, "nature draws a kindly veil. Some hours, or days, before the end, the struggle ceases; the hold on life is gradually relaxed, as the clasped fingers of children gently soften in sleep. But every doctor has seen men and women who kept a tight grip on consciousness straight up to the very end. And no doctor who has watched such men and women die doubts that there is in religion some virtue that makes it among the most precious of all human possessions. It is a magnificent thing to see an 'old-timer' die—launching out into eternity as a sailor launches into the sea, sure of his boat, which is Faith.

"I have seen scores of men and women walk up to the throne of the Almighty in a spirit of fearless and joyous anticipation. It is the business of religion to help men and women to live; but it would be well justified if it had no other office than to help them worthily to die."

The following list of sayings of the great in the hour of death was compiled by Prof. H. D. Gould, and while there is some variety in expression as one may quote one or another authority from these ancient records, we believe this list is substantially correct. It was said in the days of early Methodism "The holy die well," a saying strongly supported by the last words of the devout persons that the reader may discover scattered throughout this list.

John Adams (1735-1826), American statesman: "Jefferson survives."

John Quincy Adams (1767-1848), American statesman: "This is the last of earth! I am content!"

Benedict Arnold (1740-1801), American General: "Let me die in the old uniform in which I fought my battles for freedom. May God forgive me for ever putting on any other!"

Ludwig Beethoven (1770-1827), German composer: "I shall hear now." (He was deaf.)

Markos Bozzaris (1790-1823), Greek patriot: "To die for liberty is a pleasure and not a pain."

Charlotte Bronte (1812-1855), English novelist: "I am not going to die, am I? He will not separate us, we have been so happy!" (To her husband.)

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), American clergyman: "Katie, you may go; I shall not need you any more. I am going home."

Francis Buckland (1826-1880), English naturalist: "I am going on a long journey, and I shall see many strange animals by the way."

Edmund Burke (1730-1797), English statesman: "God bless you."

Robert Burns (1759-1796), Scottish poet: "Don't let that awkward squad fire over my grave."

John Calvin (1509-1564), Protestant reformer: "Thou, Lord, bruise me; but I am abundantly satisfied, since it is from Thy hands."

Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847), Scottish divine: "A general good night."

Christopher Columbus (1440-1506), discoverer: "Lord, into Thy hands I commit my spirit."

Lord Byron (1788-1824), English poet: "I must sleep now."

Lord Chesterfield (1694-1773), English courtier: "Give the doctor a chair."

William Cowper (1731-1800), English poet: "Feel? I feel unutterable, unutterable despair. What does it signify?"

Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), English statesman: "My desire is to make what haste I may to be gone."

Mme. De Stael (1766-1817), French authoress: "I have loved my God, my father and liberty."

George Elliot (1820-1880), English novelist: "Tell them (the doctors) I have a great pain in my left side."

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), American philosopher: "A dying man can do nothing easily."

Frederick the Great of Prussia (1712-1786), "We are over the hill. We shall go better now."

Sir Humphrey Gilbert (1539-1583), English navigator: "We are as near heaven whether by sea or by land."

William Ewart Gladstone (1809-1898), British statesman: "Amen."

Goethe (1749-1882), German poet: "Open the shutters and let in more light."

Horace Greeley (1811-1872), American journalist: "It is done."

Nathan Hale (1755-1776), American Patriot: "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country."

Henry Havlock (1795-1857), English General: "Tell my son to come and see how a Christian can die."

Patrick Henry (1736-1810), American orator and patriot: "There is a Book (the Bible) worth more than all others ever printed; yet it is my misfortune never to have found time to read it. It is now too late, I trust in the mercy of God."

Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894), American poet and prose writer: "That is better, thank you." (To his son, who had just assisted him to his favorite chair.)

Frederick Humblot (1759-1869), German savant and traveler: "How grand these rays! They seem to beckon earth to heaven."

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), American statesman: "I resign my spirit to God, and my daughter to my country."

Julian (331-363), Roman emperor: "O Galilean, Thou hast conquered."

John Keats (1795-1821), English poet: "I feel the daisies growing over me."

Hugh Latimer (1472-1555), English reformer: "Be of good cheer, brother; we shall this day kindle such a torch in England as I trust shall never be extinguished." (To Nicholas Ridley, who was burned with him.)

Louis XIII of France (1601-1643): "There come to me thoughts that trouble me."

James Lawrence (1781-1813), American naval officer: "Don't give up the ship."

Louis XIV of France (1638-1715): "I thought dying had been harder."

Louis XVIII of France (1755-1804): "A king should die standing."

Louise of Prussia (1776-1810): "I am a queen, but have not power to move my arms."

Louise Marie (1791-1847), empress of France: "I will not sleep; I wish to meet death wide awake."

Marie Antoinette (1755-1793), Queen of France: "Farewell, my children, forever; I go to meet your father."

Francis Marion (1732-1795), American general: "Thank God, I can lay my hand upon my heart and say that since I came to man's estate I have never intentionally done wrong to any one."

Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899), American evangelist: "Earth is receding; heaven is approaching; God is calling me."

Napoleon (1769-1821), Emperor of France: "Head of the army."

Napoleon III of France (1803-1873): "Were you at Sedan?" (To Dr. Conneau.)

Horatio Nelson (1758-1805), English admiral: "I thank God I have done my duty."

John Palmer (1740-1798), English actor: "There is another and better world."

Sir Walter Raleigh (1552-1618), English courtier and navigator: "Why dost thou not strike? Strike man!" (To his executioner.)

Mme. Roland (1754-1793), French lady: "O, Liberty, how many crimes are committed in thy name!"

CONFRONTING THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD

"When the eyes of the Church are lifted to the world-field, the sense of need is appalling. The Church surely will require more than human power to confront such a situation victoriously, and no call for spiritual fellowship could be more timely or urgent.

"There seems to be no more realistic way of facing this situation than by a study of the facts of what has been happening. The figures given out by the Board of Foreign Missions show that in the quadrennium ending in 1915 over twenty years ago, the average gift of the Church for foreign missions, omitting fractions, was forty-two cents per member.

"In the quadrennium from 1932 to 1936 the average for the first year was slightly higher than the average for the four years of 1912-15, or forty-three cents per member. But the average in 1935 dropped to twenty years ago! How absurd, not to say tragic, this scale of giving seems! It is made clear when we look at it squarely and note that the average gift per member for a whole year would only send eight letters through the mail and is less than admission to one motion picture theater performance or to pay a bus fare out to the park to play a round of golf!

"Among the workers sent out by the Board of Foreign Missions—my pen almost refuses to write these words—six hundred have been recalled in ten years. This one fact should send a wave of penitence throughout the Church and stir it to action. In reporting this situation to the General Conference of 1936 the secretaries say: 'That demobilization alone carried wrapped up in it more heartbreak, frustration, sense of loss and actual loss, as well as more thrilling victories of the spirit, than any official report can put into words.' What this really cost the missionary families involved, the work to which they had given their lives and the churches on the mission field no tongue can tell."

—Good Tidings.

A TRUE SOUL-WINNER

In an article on "The Lost Passion for Souls," in the "Watchman-Examiner," Rev. Arthur Hedley tells the following incident. "The late Captain Welsh, commander of the Royal Yacht, felt compelled to ask how things stood with his sovereign, King Edward VII. Seizing a favorable opportunity, he told his royal master of his concern for his spiritual welfare and put to him the all-important question, 'Has your Majesty ever taken the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin?' The king replied seriously, 'Thank you, Welsh. No one has ever asked me that question before. I can tell you that I have and believed His promise, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."'"

—Selected.