### Waiting For You.

One little lamb in the upper fold,
From the heat of summer, and winter's cold—
Safe from earth's guile,
And its dreams untrue,
One little lamb
Is waiting for you.

One little darling, whose perfect feet,
With the footsteps of old, tread the golden street,
Or wander forever
'Mid Eden's bower,
Is waiting for you
Through the golden hour.

One little spirit, that only came
Earthward to murmur her mother's name,
Lining her heart
To the band above,
In the broken accents
Of baby love.

One little lamb, from all sorrow free,
Through the long years of eternity:
From the heat of summer,
And winter's cold,
Is waiting for you
In the upper fold.

## A PITHY SERMON . = . = .

FROM THE
"SUNDAY NEW YORK HERALD."

Be strong, and quit yourselves like men.—1. Samuel, iv., 9.

### You May Be a Victory.

It seems to me we need a more constant encouragement in our religious life. Religion is in itself the most cheering thing in the world, and if any one takes a gloomy view of it he does both himself and his religion an injustice. He who tells us that we can do everything that is required is the angel over the right shoulder, and he who tells us that we cannot is the imp over the left shoulder.

It is not easily explained, perhaps, but the fact stares us in the face that it is much easier to coast down hill than to draw the sled up hill, and sometimes we become disheartened.

Still, we once in a while get a glimpse of the reason for this. We know full well from both observation and personal experience that if we were to coast down hill all our lives, and if there were no climbing up hill to be done, we should be little better than the sleds that bear us. There might be excitement, but we should lose our vigor and our health. The up hill work is what makes the man. The plan of life, therefore has been so arranged that no one can have the short pleasure of coasting down hill without the long labor of dragging his sled up hill.

A youth must be continually reminded of these facts, for he discovers at a very early stage that harmful habits may be contracted in a few months that cannot be eliminated in years. He must therefore become a philosopher or he will be ultimately ruined, for philosophy will teach him that hard work, both in the way of endurance and resistance, is the only condition on which he can chisel a beautiful statue out of the crude marble of experience. He may wonder why it should be so, but he must recognize the fact that it is so. When that has been done his feet are on the first round of the ladder whose top rests against the throne of God.

A good life, a noble life, a life worth living and worthy the dignity and destiny of the soul, is not to be had for the asking. It must be earned or not possessed at all. But when earned it is as glorious as a broad landscape lighted up by sunrise.

There is nothing on the planet so majestic as a whole and perfect human soul. The angels of heaven who sang their hallelujahs before the world was are an inferior order of beings, because the perfection which is the result of hardship and suffering is grander than the perfection with which the immortals can be endowed. I believe, therefore, that when we get into the other life the man who has endured and won the prize by his endurance will stand on a higher level than any other created creature, and the soul that has borne the ills of time in the spirit of the Master will stand nearest the throne of God.

But it is not easy to endure. The school of life is a school of discipline, and many fall by the way. So far as God has spoken, however, he has used the language of encouragement. And the words of Christ are full of pity for those who are downhearted, and of good cheer for those who still look towards the stars. Prayer is simply the means of borrowing strength from the Most High, or an expression of gratitude for what has already been received. In prayer the human heart comes into contact with God's will, and by a law, the working of which is somewhat mysterious, because our minds are not yet open, such contact results in an accession of ability which is palpable to those who have availed themselves of this privilege.

Whomsoever you may be, whatever station of life you occupy, however adverse may be your surroundings, you can earn a right to God's approval. Not every one can have riches because riches depend largely on laws which man has made, but every one can have heaven. The present time is short, but the future is long. Today you must work; but do your work well and today your toil will be rewarded.

Possibly you may be suffering the pinching pangs of poverty. Envy creeps into the heart as you recognize that others are surrounded by luxuries as well as comforts, and envy is a knife driven into the maple tree which lets the sap run out. We were not made to be wealthy, but to be noble. Wealth is an accident in some lives and not in others, but nobility may be had by all. The richest are not the happiest, for happiness comes from the soul and not from the pocket-book. The Sultan may wear a crown, but he is wretched; the peasant who digs his field for food to eat has more enjoyment and more content. Not outside, but inside, is peace to be found.

Or possibly you have fallen on evil ways and habit has made you a slave. God knows you have a hard stint to do before sundown, but you are a man and can do it. An immortal soul conquered by a habit is a sorry spectacle; a king dragged at the chariot tail is a strange humiliation. But victory may yet be wrested from defeat. You and God can do great things together. When you and the angels put shoulders to the wheel it can be lifted out of the mire. Recall the forgotten fact that you are a man, blow a blast on the trumpet of defiance, issue the proclamation of your own freedom, and do brave battle with yourself. The hosts of the skies are on your side, and though the struggle will tax your whole strength, begin it now, and keep it up till you have conquered every entrenched tendency to evil. I somehow think that he who has been lowest in this world and fought his way to manhood through legions of devils will stand highest in the time to come, for did not Christ say, "Many that are last shall be first?"

### A DREAM.

"I had a dream, that was not a dream,"
While musing in the twilight's fading gleam.
I dreamed my task was almost done,
That I and the old clay would soon be one,
That the morning of life would come and go,
While we feeble sleepers here below
Were dreaming a dirge so faint and low
Of immortality.

I dreamed of a crystal river's wave,
I thought of my mother's lonely grave,
Where the oak with its leaves o'er the sleeper spread,
Where the lily ne'er lifts up its drooping head,
And the pensive sighs of the gentle breeze
Sang mournfully through the leafy trees,
And an echo came back on the gentle breeze
Of immortality.

I dreamed of that foreign country old,
Where the Jordan flows o'er sands of gold,
And the Tree of Life, in its beauty grew,
Where the multitude passed in Grand Review,
And the sacred spot where Jesus stood,
As the Apostle John, with sacred word,
Gave him the type of the Father good
Of immortality.

I dreamed of Nature's bountiful gift,
Of mind to cultivate and to lift
This mortal mind in paths of right,
For victory's crown we'd win the fight
And sail o'er life's tempestuous sea,
Like sunbeams through the open lea,
The dreamer's thoughts were soft and free,
Of immortality.

I dreamed that life would soon be o'er,
And toil with me would be no more,
And in the cold grave I must lie,
When the gentle breeze around would sigh,
And the low, sweet song of the whip-poor-will
Would float upon the air so still,
And a mournful dirge repeat at will
Of immortality.

**Father** (impressively)—"Suppose I should be taken away suddenly, what would become of you, my boy?"

Irreverent Son—"I'd stay here. The question is, what would become of you?"

A young woman writes to a New York paper describing her first love sensations as "a sort of inward indescribableness of an outward all-overishness." That's it, exactly; any one who ever fooled with Cupid will indorse that description.

**Old Hen**—"No more domestic drudgery for me! I'd have you know that I'm an emancipated hen, I am."

Old Rooster—"You still lay eggs."

Old Hen—"Yes; but they are hatched in an incubator."

Mr. Buckwheat—"Now, jes' look at that sign, 'Don't blow out the gas.'"

Hayrick—"What does it mean?"

Mr. Buckwheat—"They probably want us to call a boy to do it, so they can charge fifty cents more on our bill."

**Edith**—"Jack Bently never seemed to me like a fellow possessed of much perseverance."

Irene—"Oh! yes, he is. Why, the other day he tried to lick a postage stamp. He didn't succeed at first; but he stuck to it."

**Schoolmaster**—"Scripture history, stand up. Tomkyns, who was the first man?"

Tomkyns—"Adam, sir."

Schoolmaster—"Right. Dummer, who was the first woman?"

Dummer—"Er—er—Madam, sir."

**Mistress**—"See, Mary, are not these flowers beautiful?"

Servant—"Deed an' they are. Many a time have I seen jist like 'em in bonnets. Ain't it wonderful how nat'ral the Lord do make things!"


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