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IN ESSENTIALS UNITY IN NON-ESSENTIALS LIBERTY IN ALL THINGS CHARITY

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THE CHRISTIAN'S BURDEN.

[With thanks to Mr. Kipling.]

Emily J. Bryant.

Take up the Christian's burden—
For a people freed to-day,
In patience bear your duty
For man to work and pray—
Go loose the fettered soul,
Go speed you to your goal.

Take up the Christian's burden—
Not for the rule of kings—
Not for the lust of conquest,
The wealth the Orient brings;
Unfold redemption's plan—
God's greatest gift to man.

Take up the Christian's burden—
Send light across the path
Of oppression, deep and baleful,
And the light of aftermath
Shall shine from God on you—
Be quick the work to do.

Take up the Christian's burden—
Till right the world controls;
Go, give your soul to exile
To save these captive souls,
And reap your great reward—
The faith of those you guard.

Take up the Christian's burden—
Tell the story, tell it plain,
And seek those others' profit
And work those others' gain:
The good for others sought
Shall never come to nought.

Take up the Christian's burden—
Send out your glittering gold,
Give your manhood to the travail,
Let the old story be retold—
God gave his only Son
That the world might be won.

All Round the Horizon.

After a week of desultory warfare confined mainly to picket firing an important battle took place on the island of Luzon on Monday afternoon, when General Wheaton captured Pasig. This city is on the Pasig river some eight miles from Manila, and its capture gives our forces command of the Southeastern peninsula, cut off from the main body of the island by the Pasig river.

Negotiations for the release of Spanish prisoners in the hands of the Filipino insurgents having been stopped by General Otis, a protest has been entered by General Rios, the Spanish Commander in the Philippines. General Otis's order being grounded on the fact that the large ransom demanded would give aid and comfort to the insurgents, General Rios makes his protest in the name of humanity. The Spanish Government has as yet taken no action, but it is probable that it will see the propriety of taking the Washington Government into its counsels, instead of treating with Aguinaldo as an independent potentate as it has thus far done.

The Samoan difficulty has been solved as it ought to be, by mutual concessions. A satisfactory understanding has been reached by Secretary Hay and the Ambassadors from Great Britain and Germany, according to which the

recalcitrant Dr. Raffel will be recalled, and Dr. Wilhelm Solf will succeed him as President of the Municipal Council at Apia. Dr. Solf appears to be *persona grata* to all parties. He will visit London and Washington before proceeding to his post, that he may become fully acquainted with the way in which all parties understand their mutual relations. Meanwhile all attempt to settle the vexed question of Samoan royalty remains in abeyance. Mataafa, who is *de facto* King, will so remain for the present. Malietoa, whom British and American authorities hold to be King *de jure*, will remain under British protection until the question not only of the respective rights of these potentates but the wishes of the Samoan people have been carefully studied. Dr. Solf has had much experience in diplomacy, has seen service in Calcutta and has lately been District Judge of the German Colony of Darasam, South Africa.

Cuba continues to be restless and dissatisfied because the United States does not expend more of its revenues on public improvements, give rations more indiscriminately, find work for the idle who are willing to work, and unite insurgent soldiers with the American army for military duty. These and other difficult questions belong naturally to the situation, and just as naturally will require time as well as wisdom for their solution. Gen. Gomez has been deposed by the Cuban Assembly from his position as commander of the Cuban army, but the people are by no means disposed to acquiesce in this high-handed proceeding. The General still remains the leader of the people and the power of the Assembly is fundamentally weakened. The newspapers are publishing protests from all parts of the island against the selfish policy of the anti-Gomez faction.

Italy is the latest European power to demand a concession from China similar to that granted to Russia, England and Germany. England is said to back Italy in its demand and France to approve of it, and a European agreement seems to be desired and planned in order to offset Russia's irritating policy in China. The latest act in the drama, however, is the recall of Signor Martino, the Italian minister to China, and the appointment of Count Orfini, minister to Tokio, to succeed him.

In the House of Commons on Monday the part taken by the British minister at Peking was severely criticized by a Liberal member, and the government's action defended by Mr. Broderick, Parliamentary Secretary of the Foreign Office. The attack was apparently made in the interest of certain American and British syndicates who have recently obtained a valuable concession in the province of Sze-Chuen, and who claim that to support Italy is to injure the interests of Great Britain, the United States and Japan, who need expansion of trade. So far as American syndicates are concerned their action is that of private individuals only.

The United States takes no part in the grab game now being played, though its commercial interests in China are large. Great Britain and Russia seem to determine what other nations shall get concessions, China being apparently helpless in the presence of an ultimatum. In the meantime poor China suffers from a revolt in which many atrocities occur.

In France the situation is less strained in the Dreyfus affair, owing to confidence in the Court of Cassation, or at least to a willingness to await its action; improvement in the relations between England and France is also to be noted. What value is to be imputed to Count Esterhazy's statement in the Dreyfus case cannot yet be told, since all he says and writes is discounted in advance by persistent distrust of the man himself. Colonel Piquart has been transferred from the military to the civil prison, where he now awaits trial.

There is more than a question of life and death in the intense struggle now going on between the people of the upper West Side and the Third Avenue Railway Company. It is the question of the good of the people against the greed of a corporation. Still more, it is the question of the duty of both people and corporation to the public weal. It was perhaps more impressive than it ought to have been that eleven car loads of people—prominent citizens and public spirited women—went to Albany last Thursday to support the Ford bill. It ought not, perhaps, to be a strange thing that the best citizens take an interest in good legislation and are ready to sacrifice their time and a little money to further the cause. The demonstration of last Thursday may perhaps, have a influence in this regard. It was at any rate an interesting event; seven hundred men and twenty-five women marching two and two through the streets of Albany up to that stately building on the hill which is so central to the welfare of a great State.

Unfortunately the influence of the delegation was not so decisive as might have been wished. It was supplemented on Monday evening by a monster mass meeting in this city, at which ex-Mayor Strong presided, and such men as Dr. Rainsford, Colonel Bartlett, Dr. Slicer, Felix Adler, Nicholas Murray Butler and others made a mighty protest against this menace to our city. In this protest all parties, all respectable newspapers, all churches, all educational influences unite. That the law-makers at Albany should not heed such a protest, that such a proposition as compromise should be so much as suggested, shows how shameless has become the indifference of our legislators to the will as well as to the weal of the people.

Yet compromise is proposed. An amendment has been suggested which Senator Ford and Assemblyman Fallows have consented to offer, though with reluctance, and which seems insufficiently considerate of the public interest, since it offers compensation to the corporation

as "deprived of private property" by the act. The expression opens the door to many possible abuses, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the voice of the people may yet be heard and the bill passed in its original form.

The new law against crimps and their rascalities in the shipment of jailors was tested last week in the case of the ship, *Emily F. Whitney*, whose captain took a crew to sea without consulting the shipping agents, who did their best to get the men away from the vessel. It is noteworthy that the Shipping Commissioner, Mr. Joseph M. Dickie, sent a deputy "to sign the men" at a secret place, thus putting himself on the side of law and showing his determination to defeat the law-breakers.

In the Delaware and Pennsylvania legislatures balloting for Senators still continues without result, and the disgust of the country runs parallel with the unseemly contests. In New Jersey every effort is being made to bring the Legislature to a close next week. The law touching the retirement of teachers with pension has been amended and enlarged, greatly to the satisfaction of the teachers. In the Court of Errors and Appeals a strenuous effort is being made to set aside the Constitutional amendment against gambling, passed after such earnest effort nearly two years ago.

Vassar College succeeds in retaining Dr. Taylor as its President, notwithstanding the loud call he received from Brown University. Miss Caroline Hazard of Peacedale, Rhode Island, is elected President of Wellesley College. Though not a college graduate she has distinction both as a scholar and writer, and is expected to adorn the high position she has reached.

The Rev. Dr. Dickie made a strong plea in behalf of the American Church in Berlin before the Presbytery of New York at its March meeting on Monday. The number of American students of both sexes temporarily resident in the German capital is large, and likely to be larger. That they need religious privileges, such as they have been accustomed to at home, is so obvious as to need no special urging. The facts when presented by Dr. Dickie make their own strong appeal.

There are some things of a striking and hopeful character in the late report—the 19th—of the New York Free Circulating Library; the increase of circulation, now reaching one and a quarter millions, only three cities attaining the million mark. This is one evidence of success very gratifying to the friends and sustainers of this growing institution. It now has ten branches in different parts of the city, with a number of traveling libraries in schools, public, industrial, etc. and among the firemen. Nearly ninety thousand books were given out on Sunday and over a quarter of a million readers were present on that day. The open shelf system is in operation in nearly all the branches. A fine new building has been erected for the Bloomingdale branch in West One Hundredth street; and the Muhlenberg branch has been moved to a better location in West Twenty-third street.

Another hopeful change is the increase of historic and scientific reading among the young. Fiction has fallen off; the more solid books are sought for. In this the East Side is not behind. The growth of intelligence among the plain people, the elevation of taste and the consequent upbuilding of character are thus shown by most sure tokens. The greatness and excellence of this work are abundantly manifest and the promoters are encouraged with the highest marks of public esteem and personal sympathy.

UPWARD STEPS TO THE HIGHER LIFE.

Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler.

"Tell me something that will help me towards a higher Christian life." To this sincere inquirer (and there are many others who have the same desire) I would say—turn to the closing verse of the first chapter of John. In that verse Christ tells Nathanael that he would "see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." The allusion here is very clear to Jacob's vision at Bethel. Jesus describes himself as a sort of connecting ladder between heaven and earth. By his divine nature he reaches to the throne of the God-head; by his human nature he reaches down to our weakness and guilt. His atonement for sin opens a way upward by which we can find pardon, peace and power—by which we can climb from a lower into a higher and holier life. By Jesus Christ and by him alone, we can attain fellowship with God; and Jesus may become to us "wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption."

You may say this is too theological in language, and rather savors of mysticism. You want it translated into the language of everyday life, and to know just how you can become a better, stronger, happier and more useful man or woman. It is a good symptom that you desire spiritual improvement; for self-satisfaction is always a curse. The mere desire, however, will not produce the change any more than my desire to get the view from the top of the East River Bridge-tower will carry me up there. I must make the ascent, and by one step at a time.

Sin of some kind—or of many kinds—is the real trouble with you. Sin holds down and hinders advancement. Repentance is not a thing to be done at the outset of the Christian life, and then to be done with forever after. It is not a mere feeling bad; it is a *doing better*. Faith also is not the single act of accepting Christ at the time of conversion; it is continual clinging to him, and the continual resting your whole weight on him as you trust yourself to every step of stone in that Bridge-tower. Your religious life began when you gained your first victory over sin; you gained it by Christ's help. Your grasp on the Saviour for help—for forgiveness, for strength to serve him was an act of—faith. When Bartimeus cast away his garment and arose and came to Jesus, he gave a good illustration of what you did when you first became a Christian; and what Jesus did for him is an illustration of what he did for you at the time of your conversion.

What you experienced at the outset of a Christian life must be repeated to a certain degree continually. You began with a decisive step—a step Christward. Now don't begin to dream about a prodigious jump or a sudden hoist into a higher life. I have heard some people pray for a sudden advance into holiness which seemed to me very much as if my little grandson were to expect to read a whole chapter of the Bible fluently before he had learned to spell out syllables. No mere vague desire to be stronger and holier ever adds one cubit to your spiritual stature. A Christian character is built as my dear old church yonder was built—by laying one stone upon another. A mountain is ascended by setting one footstep after another up its steep face; if there be an occasional slip backward, then a new lesson of weakness is learned, just as you have been learning your own weakness, and the need of a fresh grasp on Christ. Penitence and faith lay at the starting point with you; penitence and faith must accompany every upward step. You have not yet outgrown "God be merciful to me a sinner."

My friend, if you really long for a genuine

growth in grace, in vigor, and in effective usefulness, then be done with vague aspiration, and lay hold of what the negro preacher called his "up-settin' sins." Put the knife to that bad habit before it becomes an ulcer. Take hold of that neglected duty and perform it. One step on the ladder was taken by my neighbor A—when he gave up his inordinate appetite for novels (some of them very poisonous) and determined to feed on solid food, and to go back to his Bible. Deacon B—pitched out of doors his Sunday morning newspaper; he found it was killing his Sabbath spirit. Brother C—has stopped putting his Club in the place of his prayer-meeting. Brother D—, who said that after a hard week's work he needed a Sunday afternoon nap on his sofa, has become a different man since he enlisted for his Master in our Mission Chapel. Mrs. E—was sorely tempted to buy that sealskin sacque, but she said, "No, no, not that luxury while that missionary is freezing for want of an overcoat out in Dakota."

And so I could go on through the whole alphabet of *taking steps upward* in obedience to the voice of conscience and to honor Christ. Don't be all the time feeling your pulse, in order to grow better. Don't rely on attending meetings for the "promotion of holiness." The higher life is reached by steady climbing—making *Christ your spiritual ladder*—and by one step at a time.

"Heaven is not reached by a single bound;
Christ is the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies:
And we mount to the summit round by round."

Cleave closely to the stairway; a single step to the one side or the other brings a fall. Nearly all the catastrophes in Alpine climbing result from wandering from the guides, or from venturing on forbidden ground. Jesus never promises his aid except in the path of obedience. Every redeemed soul is bound to strive for the highest, holiest and most fruitful life that grace can impart. The angels of prayer will ascend, and the angels of blessings will descend upon that Divine Ladder which links earth to heaven.

The evidence that Lent is being used as a season of special religious activity by all churches is daily growing. Recent observation in the valleys of Presbyterian Pennsylvania and the Southern tier of New York makes apparent this practical unity of all Christians; union services, interchange of regular service in the same town, a common sympathy in the keeping of the period by prayer methods and in the right spirit, these and kindred tokens of ecumenical faith are very comforting. And why not? Religion gains by a certain fusion of denominational sentiment. The increase of pious observances is a needed element in the advancement of men in this age to the higher ideals of Christian living.

Sugar making is now in vogue where the maples abound in all our Middle and even in the Western States. A visit to one of these "camps" in the forests of sugar trees is a lesson no less than a joy. The scarred trees are tested hearts; the grove is a symbol of the men and women whose grandeur of soul is enhanced by the trials that have expressed the sweetness that is in their very beloved.

Rudyard Kipling's complete recovery is expected. His illness and the possibility of losing him may well be said to have "eclipsed the gayety of nations," showing the hold he has on English-speaking readers everywhere. Even the German Emperor sent a cable message to Mrs. Kipling of the most complimentary kind.