

# The Independent

"EVEN AS WE HAVE BEEN APPROVED OF GOD TO BE INTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL SO WE SPEAK; NOT AS PLEASING MEN, BUT GOD WHICH PROVETH OUR HEARTS."

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## Farewell.

BY KATHARINE PYLE.

So then, farewell, Hope, since part we must,  
No more reproaches, just or unjust.

Give me no last kiss; my heart is cold,  
Let our hands calmly loosen their hold.

You were not faithful ever to me,  
'Twas not your nature, how could you be?

You were so fair then;—joy of my sight,  
Well, you are fair still, radiant and bright,

Only you cannot move me again  
Into the rapture, piercing as pain.

By the hearth you left, desolate, bare,  
Now some one else sits, smiles on me there.

When I was saddest to me she came;  
You know her not, Hope, even by name.

She is not lovely and radiant like you,  
Her eyes are gray, and your eyes are blue.

Your cheeks are rosy, her cheeks are wan;  
But she grew dear to me when you were gone.

Nearest and dearest, now she has grown;  
Pale Resignation, my loved one, my own.

WILMINGTON, DEL.

## "I Shall go Softly all My Years."

(ISAIAH 38: 15.)

BY ETHELBERG D. WARFIELD.

"I SHALL go softly all my years!"  
Not as the prophet bathed in tears  
And in deep bitterness of soul,  
For God hath healed my heavy dole,  
Hath stilled my pain and dried my tears,  
And given Faith for foolish fears.

"I shall go softly," since I've found  
The mighty arm that girds me round  
Is gentle, as it's sure and strong;—  
'I shall go softly' through the throng  
And with compulsion calm and sweet  
Lead sinners to the Savior's feet.

How sternly paced those patient feet  
Along Capernaum's marble street;  
How softly and how tenderly  
Their echoes from Gethsemane  
Steal down the ages, rich to bless  
All time with deathless happiness.

Into my heart those echoes steal  
Until I cannot choose but kneel,—  
Not weak and worn, with vigor spent,  
But joyous and in glad content,—  
And kneeling pray to Him who hears  
To lead me softly all my years.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE, EASTON, PENN.

## Higher!

BY THEODORE L. CUYLER, D.D.

WEBSTER'S famous remark to a young lawyer, who complained that the legal profession was overcrowded, "there is plenty of room at the top," will apply to the Christian Church. While there are quite enough minimum Christians (who will probably have only a minimum heaven), there are some who are becoming sick of themselves and of their low attainments. To be barely alive does not satisfy them. "Friend, go up higher!" He who imparted to you such spiritual life as you have, offers to you "life more abundantly." Jesus Christ is the inexhaustible source of strength and joy, and it depends upon yourself how much of these you shall possess. Growth is not a momentary, magical gift; it is a process, and you must do the growing. Paul was no perfectionist when he exclaimed, "but one thing I do; I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." There was something higher yet before him.

Just what are the essentials of that more abundant life that you should strive after? The first one that I may name is—more *faith*. "Lord, increase our faith," was the prayer of men who felt that they were but children, and not full grown; they saw only through a glass dimly and often stumbled on the road. A feeble faith may move mole-hills; it takes a stalwart faith to move mountains. It is the feebleness of the grip on the Almighty Savior and Lord that makes it so difficult to stand a heavy strain, or carry a heavy load, or exert a powerful influence over other hearts and lives. This is the secret of a vast deal of the unfruitful preaching in the pulpit and unfruitful teaching in Sunday-schools, and of failures generally to accomplish much good in the world. Look over the official reports of a great number of churches and you will see that they barely hold their own; many—in the mercantile phrase—have ceased to "pay any dividend." "According to your faith be it unto you"; that is Christ's measurement of spiritual power. If a minister does not know whom he believes, and does not know that the book he holds in his hand is God's own "fire and hammer" he will not be likely to melt, or to break many hard, stubborn hearts. Doubt means debility; unbelief means death. What is true of ministers is equally true of all Christians.

You will realize the vital necessity of an increase of faith, if you will but understand that faith is vastly more than an intellectual process or a mental assent to divine truth. It is vastly more than a devout emotion, and a mightily different thing is it from the pious fetish that some religious quacks are now employing for purposes of delusion. A genuine Christian faith is just the grappling union of the soul with the omnipotent Son of God. "I am the vine; ye are the branches; abide in me." That is the way in which Christ puts it, and *faith makes that very union*. The closer your connection with Jesus is, the greater will be the amount of grace that flows into your soul and out into your daily life. I have seen a current of electricity sent through a huge horseshoe magnet that enabled it to lift four thousand pounds; the moment that the current was drawn off the weights dropped to the floor. The more abundant your faith, the fuller and more potent will be the inflow of Jesus Christ. "Not I," exclaimed the old giant of apostolic days—"not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God." That sentence of Paul is about the best description of the sort of higher life that Meyer and Murray and Moody are now advocating. Stripped of all the language of mysticism that is about the core of the matter.

With increase of faith will come great increase of spiritual vigor. When a person's system is in a low, impoverished condition, he is liable to catch any fevers which are prevailing. It is a feeble spiritual life that breeds self-seeking and covetousness and worldliness, and also exposes one to the ague-fits of unbelief. As weak blood breeds ulcers, so a weak spiritual state breeds sinful lusts. With a sick soul, as with a sick body, the problem is whether there is internal vitality enough to slough off the disease. "I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not," said Jesus, when Simon Peter was in a wretchedly bad way; and but for imparted grace that ugly assault of Satan in Pilate's courtyard might have been the end of poor Peter. After he was endued with the more abundant vigor of Christ's promised Spirit, he withstood fiftyfold stronger pressure without flinching. It is very encouraging to weak Christians that the poltroon who was frightened by the sneers of a servant-girl, lived to face Herod's jailers and the threats of death without turning purple in the lips. Why should any Christian be so feeble and so easily upset when he might be strengthened with all power in the

inner man, according to the might of Christ Jesus? The more vigor you pray for, the more you will receive. Rouse up to useful activities. Quit your Sunday afternoon lounge for some thorough mission-work. Active exercise does for the soul just what it does for the body.

You say that you are not happy; and I do not wonder. None of us are as happy as we might be. Many professed Christians carry such repulsive countenances and irritable tongues, and shed around them such a chill, that if they should ever try to win an unconverted person, that person might well retort: "No, I thank you; if your religion carries such a face as yours, I don't want it." Such Christians cheat themselves out of their birthright; Jesus promised them that if they continued to abide in his love, his joy would remain in them and their joy would be full. Mounts of rapture are only occasionally reached in the best lives; but a healthy person enjoys a ripe pear or a California orange. A loyal husband enjoys the welcoming kiss of a loving wife at his threshold; and there must be something wrong in you if you profess to love Christ and pretend to be working for him, and find no delight in it. How can you possess Christ and a clean conscience, and not be happy over it?

Joy is love looking at its treasures. The richer you become in having Christ with you here, and in the expectation of being with him forever, the more investments you make in helping other people, and drying tears, and saving souls, the fuller will be your jewel-casket. If you say to me: "I have not enjoyed my religion much lately," then I may suggest to you that you had not much religion to enjoy. Turn a new leaf; make a new start, with the honest question: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" and then do it. His smile will give you sunshine, and put a new song into your mouth. Put more conscience into your religion. Weakness means wickedness. Don't worry over "hard times," or outside troubles; if you have peace of conscience you can stand rough weather cheerfully. There are always some chilly days in March and April, but summer will come along in its time, with the joys of harvest. Jesus offers you "life more abundantly"; grasp the offer and, quitting the boggy and dark low grounds, let him lead you up *higher!*

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

## Cuba and Intervention.

BY THEODORE S. WOOLSEY,

PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN YALE UNIVERSITY.

THE "Maine" explosion does not necessarily bring the relations between Spain and the United States to a crisis; but it certainly does not make them more friendly. The old difficulty remains, with the added knowledge that the report of the Board of Inquiry as to the loss of our ship *may* be definite enough to force the Government's hand. There is, too, a fast growing belief that the Administration is at or near the intervention point. This belief is not founded upon any definite official statement; it is, rather, the result of a study of the preparations for war now making on both sides, and of a conviction that it is the logical consequence of the situation. There is, too, that subtle, unreasoning premonition of future events which, when widely shared, insures their fulfilment, not as the result of volition, but of impelling fate. Let us briefly review the situation, to determine if intervention is a justifiable course.

There has been an insurrection in Cuba, which for three troubled years has disturbed our friendship with Spain. At considerable expense and with good success, our Government has prevented the dispatching of armed expeditions against the Spanish power in Cuba. The revenue cutters, and also the ships of the navy have been used in this guard duty. Many