

The Pilgrim's Progress In Words of One Syllable

By
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We at Orion's Gate trust that children and students of English as a second language will enjoy this greatly abridged and simplified version of John Bunyan's immortal classic. Be sure to visit our book site to download a 90 page sample from "[The New Amplified Pilgrim's Progress](#)."

Author's Preface

IN offering to the public another volume on my plan of reducing popular tales into words of One Syllable exclusively, I wish it to be clearly understood that it is intended for Adult Beginners, no less than for Children. There is a large class of persons who do not begin to acquire the art of reading till somewhat late in life, and it is for such that I think a book of this Character is peculiarly applicable.

It may be objected that my system involves the use of words which, though short, are difficult to understand and might be made more intelligible in polysyllabic language. But I have endeavored as far as possible to avoid hard and technical expressions, and I cannot but think that the mere fact of the brevity of the words must be a great attraction to beginners of all ages. By this method the labor of dividing and accentuating words is avoided: a difficulty which pupils who have only attained to the knowledge of monosyllables cannot conquer by independent effort.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging the great favor with which my previous books of the same character have been received, and I am glad to hear that they have been found useful as Prizes in Schools.

I have thought it necessary to retain all the names of Persons and Places in their original form, but this is the only exception to my general rule.

AS I went through the wild waste of this world, I came to a place where there was a den, and I lay down in it to sleep. While I slept I had a dream, and lo! I saw a man whose clothes were in rags and he stood with his face from his own house, with a book in his hand, and a great load on his back. I saw him read from the leaves of a book, and as he read, he wept and shook with fear; and at length he broke out with a loud cry, and said, "What shall I do to save my soul?"

So in this plight he went home, and as long as he could he held his peace, that his wife and babes should not see his grief. But at length he told them his mind, and thus he spoke, "O my dear wife, and you my babes, I, your dear friend, am full of woe, for a load lies hard on me; and more than this, I have been told that our town will be burnt with fire, in which I, you my wife, and you my sweet babes, shall be lost, if means be not found to save us."

This sad tale struck all who heard him with awe, not that they thought what he said to them was true, but that they had fears that some weight must be on his mind; so, as night now drew near, they were in hopes that sleep might soothe his brain, and with all haste they got him to bed.

When the morn broke, they sought to know how he did? He told them, "Worse and worse;" and he set to talk once more in the same strain as he had done; but they took no heed of it. By and by, to drive off his fit, they spoke harsh words to him; at times they would laugh, at times they would chide, and then set him at nought. So he went to his room to pray for them, as well as to nurse his own grief. He would go, too, into the woods to read and muse, and thus for some weeks he spent his time.

Now I saw, in my dream, that one day as he took his walk in the fields with his book in his hand, he gave a groan, - for he felt as if a cloud were on his soul, - and he burst out as he was wont to do, and said, "Who wills save me?" I saw, too, that he gave wild looks this way and that, as if he would rush off; yet he stood still, for he could not tell which way to go. At last, a man, whose name was Evangelist, came up to him and said, "Why dost thou weep?"

He said, "Sir, I see by this book in my hand that I am to die, and that then God will judge me. Now I dread to die."

Evangelist. - "Why do you fear to die, since this life is fraught with woe?"

The man said, "I fear lest a hard doom should wait me, and that this load on my back will make me sink down, till at last, I shall find I am in Tophet."

"If this be your case," said Evangelist, "why do you stand still?"

But the man said, "I know not where to go."

Then he gave him a scroll with these words on it, "Fly from the wrath to come."

When the man read it he said, "Which way must I fly?"

Evangelist held out his hand to point to a gate in the wide field, and said, "Do you see the Wicket Gate?"

The mans said, "No."

"Do you see that light?"

He then said, "I think I do."

"Keep that light in your eye," quoth Evangelist, "and go straight up to it; so shall you see the gate, at which, when you knock, it shall be told you what you are to do."

Then I saw in my dream that Christian - for that was his name - set off to run.

Now he had not gone far from his own door, when his wife and young ones, who saw him, gave a loud wail to beg of him to come back; but the man put his hands to his ears, and ran on with a cry of "Life! Life!"

The friends of his wife, too, came out to see him run, and as he went, some were heard to mock him, some to use threats, and there were two who set off to fetch him back by force, the names of whom were Obstinate and Pliable.

Now, by this time, the man had gone a good way off, but at last they came up to him.

Then said Christian, "Friends, why are you come?"

"To bid you go back with us", said they.

"But," quoth he, "that can by no means be; you dwell in the City of Destruction, the place where I, too, was born. I know it to be so, and there you will die and sink down to a place which burns with fire; be wise, good friends, and come with me.

"What! and leave our good, and all out kith and kin?"

"Yes," said Christian, "for that all which you might leave is but a grain to that which I seek, and if you will go with me and hold it firm, you shall fare as well as I; for there, where I go, you will find all you want and to spare. Come with me, and prove my words."

Obstinate. - "What are the things you seek, since you leave all the world to find them?"

Christian. - "I seek those joys that fade not, which are laid up in a place of bliss - safe there for those who go in search of them. Read it so, if you will, in my book."

Obstinate. - "Tush! Off with your book. Will you go back with us or no?"

Christian. - "No, not I, for I have laid my hand to the plough."

Obstinate. - "Come, friend Pliable, let us turn back and leave him; there is a troop of such fools who, when they take up with a whim by the end, are more wise in their own eyes than ten men who know how to think."

Pliable. - "Nay, do not scorn him; if what the good Christian says is true, the things he looks to are of more worth than ours: my heart leans to what he says."

Obstinate. - "What! more fools still! Go back, go back, and be wise."

Christian. - "Nay, but do you come with your friend Pliable; there are such things to be had as those I just spoke of, and more too. If you give no heed to me, read here in this book which comes to us from God, who could not lie."

Pliable. - "Well, friend Obstinate, I think now I have come to a point; and I mean to go with this good man, and to cast my lot in with his.

Then said he to Christian, "Do you know the way to the place you speak of?"

Christina. - "I am told by a man whose name is Evangelist, to do my best to reach a gate that is in front of us, where I shall be told how to find the way."

So they went on side by side.

Obstinate. - "And I will go back to my place; I will not be one of such vain folk."

Now I saw in my dream, that when Obstinate was gone back, Christian and Pliable set off to cross the plain, and they spoke thus as they went:

Christian. - "Well, Pliable, how do you do now? I am glad you have a mind to go with me."

Pliable. - "Come, friend Christian, since there are none but we two here, tell me more of the things of which we go in search."

Christian. - "I can find them in my heart, though I know not how to speak of them with my tongue; but yet, since you wish to know, this book tells us of a world that hast no bounds, and a life that has no end."

Pliable. - "Well said, and what else?"

Christian. - "That there are crowns of light in store for us, and robes that will make us shine like the sun."

Pliable. - This, too, is good; and what else?"

Christian. - "That there shall be no more care nor grief for he that owns the place will wipe all tears from our eyes."

Pliable. - "And what friends shall we find there?"

Christian. - "There we shall be with all the saints. in robes so bright that our eyes will grow dim to look on them. There shall we meet those who in this world have stood out for the faith, and have been burnt on the stake, and thrown to wild beasts, for the love they bore to the Lord. They will not harm us, but will greet us with love, for they all walk in the sight of God."

Pliable. - "But how shall we get to share all this?"

Christian. - "The Lord of that land saith, if we wish to gain that world we shall be free to have it."

Pliable. - "Well, my good friend, glad am I to hear of these thing: come on, let us mend our pace."

Christian. - "I can not go so fast as I would, for this load on my back."

Then I saw in my dream that just as they had come to an end of this talk, they drew near to a slough that was in the midst of the plain, and as they took no heed, they both fell in. The name of the slough was Despond. Here they lay for a time in the mud; and the load that Christian had on his back made him sink all the more in the mire.

Pliable. - "Ah! friend Christian, where are you now?"

Christian. - "In truth, I do not know."

Then Pliable said to his friend, "Is this the bliss of which you have told me all this while? If we have such ill speed when we first set out, what may we look for twixt this and the end of our way?" And with that he got out of the mire on that side of the slough which was next to his own house; then off he went, and Christian saw him no more.

So Christian was left to strive in the Slough of Despond as well as he could; yet his aim was to reach that side of the slough that was next The Wicket Gate, which at last he did, but he could not get out for the load that was on his back; till I saw in my dream that a man came to him whose name was Help.

"What do you do here?" said Help.

Christian. - "I was bid to go this way by Evangelist, who told me to pass up to yon gate, that I might flee from the wrath to come, and on my way to it I fell in here."

Help. - "But why did you not look for the steps?"

Christian. - "Fear came so hard on me that I fled the next way and fell in."

Help. - "Give me your hand."

So he gave him his hand, and he drew him out, and set him on firm ground, and bade him go on his way.

Then in my dream I went up to Help and said to him, "Sir, since this place is on the way from The City of Destruction to The Wicket Gate, how is it that no one mends this patch of ground, so that those who come by may not fall in the slough?"

Help. - "This slough is such a place as no one can mend. It is the spot to which doth run the scum and filth that wait on sin, and that is why men call it the Slough of Despond.

When the man of sin wakes up to a sense of his own lost state, doubts and fears rise up in

his soul, and all of them drain down and sink in this place: and it is this that makes the ground so bad. True there are good and sound steps in the midst of the slough, but at times it is hard to see them; or if they be seen, men's heads are so dull that they step on one side, and fall in the mire. But the ground is good when they have once got in at the gate."

Now I saw in my dream that by this time Pliable had gone back to his house once more, and that his friends came to see him: some said how wise it was to come home, and some that he was a fool to have gone. Some, too, were found to mock him, who said - "Well, had I set out, I would not have been so base as to come back for a slough in the road." So Pliable was left to sneak off; but at last he got more heart, and then all were heard to turn their taunts, and laugh at poor Christian. Thus much for Pliable.

Now as Christian went on his way he saw a man come through the field to meet him, whose name was Mr. Worldly Wiseman, and he dwelt in the town of Carnal Policy, which was near that whence Christian came. He had heard some news of Christian; for his flight from The City of Destruction had made much noise, and was now the talk far and near. So he said, "How now, good Sir, where do you go with such a load on your back?"

Christian. - "In truth, it is a load; and if you ask me where I go, I must tell you, Sir, I must go the The Wicket Gate in front of me, for there I shall be put in a way to get quit of my load."

Worldly Wiseman. - "Have you not a wife and babes?"

Christian. - "Yes, but with this load I do not seem to care for them as I did; and, in truth, I feel as if I had none."

Worldly Wiseman. - "Will you hear me if I speak my mind to you?"

Christian. - "If what you say be good, I will, for I stand much in need of help."

Worldly Wiseman. - "I would urge you then, with all speed, to get rid of your load; for you will not be at rest till then."

Christian. - "That is just what I seek to do. But there is no man in our land who can take if off me."

Worldly Wiseman. - "Who bade you go this way to be rid of it?"

Christian. - "One that I took to be a great and true man; his name is Evangelist."

Worldly Wiseman. - "Hark at what I say: there is no worse way in the world than that which he has sent you, and that you will find if you take him for your guide. In this short time you have met with bad luck, for I see the mud of the Slough of Despond is on your coat. Hear me, for I have seen more of the world than you; in the way you go, you will meet with pain, woe, thirst, the sword too, - in a word, death! Take no heed of what Evangelist tells you."

Christian. - "Why, Sir, this load on my back is worse to me than all those things which you speak of; nay, I care not what I meet with in the way, if I can but get rid of my load."

Worldly Wiseman. - "How did you come by it at first?"

Christian. - "Why, I read this book."

Worldly Wiseman. - "Like more weak men I know, who aim at things too high for them you have lost heart, and run in the dark at great risk, to gain you know not what."

Christian. - "I know what I would gain, it is ease for my load."

Worldly Wiseman. - "But why will you seek for ease thus, when I could put you in the way to aid it where there would be no risk; and the cure is at hand."

Christian. - "Pray, Sir, tell me what that way is."

Worldly Wiseman. - "Well, in yon town, which you can see from hence - the name of which is Morality - there dwells a man whose name is Legality, a wise man, and a man of some rank, who has skill to help men off with such loads as yours from their backs; I know he has done a great deal for good in that way; aye, and he has the skill to cure those who, from the loads they bear, are not quite sound in their wits. To him as I said, you may go and get help. His house is but a mile from this place, and should he not be at home, he has a son whose name is Civility, who can do it just as well as his sire. There, I say, you may go to get rid of your load. I would not have you go back to your old home, but you can send for your wife and babes, and you will find that food there is cheap and good."

Now was Christian brought to a stand; but by and by he said, "Sir, which is my way to this good man's house?"

Worldly Wiseman. - "Do you see that hill?"

Christian. - "Yes, I do."

Worldly Wiseman. - "By that hill you must go, and the first house you come to is his."

So Christian went out of his way to find Mr. Legality's house to seek for help.

But, lo, when he had got close up to the hill, it was so steep and high that he had fear lest it should fall on his head; so he stood still, for he knew not what to do. His load, too, was of more weight to him than when he was on the right road.

Then came flames of fire out of the hill, that made him quake for fear lest he should be burnt. And now it was a great grief to him that he had lent his ear to Worldly Wiseman; and it was well that he just then saw Evangelist come to meet him; though at the sight of him he felt a deep blush on his face for shame.

Evangelist drew near, and when he came up to him, he said, with a sad look; "What dost thou here, Christian?"

To these words Christian knew not what to say, so he stood quite mute. Then Evangelist went on thus: "Art not thou the man that I heard cry in The City of Destruction?"

Christian. - "Yes, dear Sir, I am the man."

Evangelist. - "Did not I point out to thee the way to the Wicket Gate?"

Christian. - "Yes, you did, Sir."

Evangelist. - "How is it, then, that thou hast so soon gone out of the way?"

Christian. - "When I had got out of the Slough of Despond I met a man who told me that in a town near, I might find one who could take off my load."

Evangelist. - "What was he?"

Christian. - "He had fair looks, and said much to me, and got me at last to yield; so I came here. But when I saw this hill, and how steep it was, I made a stand, lest it should fall on my head."

Evangelist. - "What said the man to thee?"

When Evangelist had heard from Christian all that took place, he said: "Stand still a while, that I may show thee the words of God."

So Evangelist went on to read, "'Now the just shall live by faith, but if a man draw back, my soul shall have no joy in him.' Is not this the case with thee?" said he: "Hast not thou drawn back thy feet from the way of peace, to thine own cost; and dost thou not spurn the most high God?"

Then Christian fell down at his feet as dead, and said: "Woe is me! Woe is me!"

At the sight of which, Evangelist caught him by the right hand, and said: "Faith hopes all things."

Then did Christian find some peace, and stood up.

Evangelist. - "I pray thee give more heed to the things that I shall tell thee of. The Lords says, 'Strive to go in at the strait gate, the gate to which I send thee, for strait is the gate that leads to life, and few there be that find it.' Why didst thou set at nought the words of God, for the sake of Mr. Worldly Wiseman? That is, in truth, the right name for such as he. The Lord hath told thee that he who will save his life shall lose it.' He to whom thou wast sent for ease, Legality by name, could not set thee free; no man yet has got rid of his load through him; he could but show thee the way to woe, for by the deeds of the law no man can be rid of his load. So that Mr. Worldly Wiseman and his friend Mr. Legality are false guides; and as for his son Civility, he could not help thee."

Now Christian, in great dread, could think of nought but death, and sent forth a sad cry in grief that he had gone from the right way. Then he spoke once more to Evangelist in these words: - "Sir, what think you? Is there hope? May I now go back, and strive to reach The Wicket Gate? I grieve that I gave ear to this man's voice; but may my sin find grace?"

Evangelist. - "Thy sin is great, for thou hast gone from the way that is good, to tread in false paths, yet will the man at the gate let thee through, for he has love and good will for all men; but take heed that thou turn not to the right hand or to the left."

Then did Christian make a move to go back, and Evangelist gave him a kiss and one smile, and bade him God speed.

So he went on with haste, nor did he speak on the road; and could by no means feel safe till he was in the path which he had left. In time, he got up to the gate. And as he saw by the words which he read on it, that those who would knock could go in, he gave two or three knocks, and said: "May I go in here?"

At last there came a great man to the gate, whose name was Good-will, and he said: "Who is there; whence come you, and what would you have?"

Christian. - "I come from The City of Destruction with a load of Sins on my back; but I am on my way to Mount Zion, that I may be free from the wrath to come; and as I have been told that my way is through this gate, I would know, Sir, if you will let me in?"

Good-will. - "With all my heart."

So he flung back the gate. But just as Christian went in, he gave him a pull.

Then said Christian: "What means that?"

Good-will told him that a short way from this gate there was a strong fort, of which Beelzebub was the chief, and that from thence he and the rest that dwelt there shot darts at those that came up to the gate to try if they could kill them ere they got in.

Then said Christian: "I come in with joy and with fear." So when he had gone in, the man at the gate said: "Who sent you here?"

Christian. - "Evangelist bade me come and knock (as I did); and he said that you, Sir, would tell me what I must do."

Good-will. - "The door is thrown back wide for you to come in, and no man can shut it."

Christian. - "Now I seem to reap the good of all the risks I have met with on the way."

Good-will. - "But how is it that no one comes with you?"

Christian. - "None of my friends saw that there was cause of fear, as I did."

Good-will. - "Did they know of your flight?"

Christian. - "Yes, my wife and young ones saw me go, and I heard their cries as they ran out to try and stop me. Some of my friends, too, would have had me come home, but I put my hands to my ears, and so came on my way."

Good-will. - "But did none of them come out to beg of you to go back?"

Christian. - "Yes, both Obstinate and Pliable came, but when they found that I would not yield, Obstinate went home, but Pliable came with me as far as the Slough of Despond."

Good-will. - "Why did he not come through it?"

When Christian told him the rest, he said: "Ah, poor man! Is a world of bliss such a small thing to him, that he did not think it worth while to run a few risks to gain it?"

"Sir," said Christian, "there is not much to choose twixt him and me."

Then he told Good-will how he had been led from the straight path by Mr. Worldly Wiseman.

Good-will. - "Oh, did he light on you? What! He would have had you seek for ease at the hands of Mr. Legality. They are, in truth, both of them cheats. And did you take heed of what he said?"

Christian then told him all. "But now that I am come," said he, "I am more fit for death, than to stand and talk to my Lord. But oh, the joy it is to me to be here!"

Good-will. - "We keep none out that knock at this gate, let them have done what they may ere they came here; for they are 'in no wise cast out.' So, good Christian, come with me, and I will teach you the way you must go. Look in front. That is the way which was laid down by Christ and the wise men of old, and it is as straight as a rule can make it."

Christian. - "But is there no turn or bend by which one who knows not the road might lost his way?"

Good-will. - "My friend, there are not a few that lead down to it, and these paths are wide: yet by this you may judge the right from the wrong - the right are straight and are by no means wide."

Then I saw in my dream that Christian said: "Could you not help me off with this load on my back?" - for as yet he had not got rid of it. He was told: "As to your load, you must bear it till you come to the place of Deliverance, for there it will fall from your back."

Then Christian would have set off on the road; but Good-will said: "Stop a while and let me tell you that when you have gone through the gate you will see the house of Mr. Interpreter, at whose door you must knock, and he will show you good things." Then Christian took leave of his friend, who bade him God speed.

He now went on till he came to the house at the door of which he was to knock; this he did two or three times. At last one came to the door and said: "Who is there?"

Christian. - "I have come to see the good man of the house."

So in a short time Mr. Interpreter came to him and said: "What would you have?"

Christian. - "Sir, I am come from The City of Destruction, and am on my way to Mount Zion. I was told by the man that stands at the gate, that if I came here you would show me good things that would help me."

Then Interpreter took Christian to a room, and bade his man bring a light, and there he saw on the wall the print of one who had a grave face, whose eyes were cast up to the sky, and the best of books was in His hand, the law of truth was on His lips, and the world was at His back. He stood as if He would plead for men, and a crown of gold hung near his head.

Christian. - "What does this mean?"

Interpreter. - "I have shown you this print first, for this is He who is to be your sole guide when you can not find your way to the land to which you go; so take good heed to what I have shown you, lest you meet with some who would feign to lead you right; but their way goes down to death."

Then he took him to a large room that was full of dust, for it had not been swept; and Interpreter told his man to sweep it. Now when he did so, such clouds of dust flew up, that it made Christian choke.

Then said Interpreter to a maid that stood by; "Make the floor moist that the dust may not rise;" and when she had done this, it was swept with ease.

Christian. - "What means this?"

Interpreter. - "This room is the heart of that man who knows not the grace of God. The dust is his first sin and the vice that is in him. He that swept first is the Law, but she who made the floor moist is The Book which tells Good News to Man. Now as soon as you saw the first of these sweep, the dust did so fly that the room could not be made clean by him; this is to show you that the law as it works does not cleanse the heart from sin, but gives strength to sin, so as to rouse it up in the soul.

Then you next saw the maid come in to lay the dust; so is sin made clean and laid low by faith in The Book."

"Now," said Christian, "let me go hence."

"Well," said Interpreter, "keep all things so in thy mind that they may be a goad in thy sides; and may faith guide thee!"

Then I saw in my dream that the high way which Christian was to tread, had a wall on each side, and the name of that wall was Salvation. Up this high way did Christian run, but with great toil for the load on his back. He ran thus till he drew near to a place on which stood a cross, and at the foot of it a tomb. Just as Christian came up to the cross, his load slid from his back, close to the mouth of the tomb, where it fell in, and I saw it no more.

Then was Christian glad, and said with a gay heart: "He gives me rest by his grief, and life by his death."

Yet he stood still for a while, for he was struck with awe to think that the sight of the cross should thus ease him of his load. Three or four times did he look on the cross and the tomb, and the tears rose to his eyes. As he stood thus and wept, lo, three Bright Ones came to him, and one of them said: "Peace be to thee! thou hast grace from thy sins." And one came up to him to strip him of his rags and put a new robe on him, while the third set a mark on his face, and gave him a roll with a seal on it, which he bade him look on as he went, and give it at The Celestial Gate; and then they left him.

Christian gave three leaps for joy, and sang as he went: "Ah, what a place is this! Blest cross! Blest tomb! Nay, blest is the Lord that was put to shame for me!"

He went on thus till he came to a vale where he saw three men who were in a sound sleep, with chains on their feet. The name of one was Simple, one Sloth, and the third Presumption. As Christian saw them lie in this case, he went to wake them, and said: "You are like those that sleep on the top of a mast, for the Dead Sea is at your feet. Wake, rise, and come with me. Trust me, and I will help you off with your chains." With that they cast their eyes up to look at him, and Simple said: "I would fain take more sleep." Presumption said: "Let each man look to his own." And so they lay down to sleep once more.

Then I saw in my dream that two men leapt from the top of the wall and made great haste to come up to him. Their names were Formalist and Hypocrisy.

Christian. - "Sirs, whence come you, and where do you go?"

Formalist and Hypocrisy. - "We were born in the land of Vain-glory, and are on our way to Mount Zion for praise."

Christian. - "Why came you not in at the Gate? Know you not that he that comes not in at the door, but climbs up to get in, the same is a thief?"

They told him that to go through the gate was too far round; that the best way was to make a short cut of it, and climb the wall, as they had done.

Christian. - "But what will the Lord of the town to which we are bound think of it, if we go not in the way of his will?"

They told Christian that he had no need for care on that score, for long use had made it law, and they could prove that it had been so for years.

Christian. - "But are you quite sure that your mode will stand a suit at law?"

"Yes," said they, "no doubt of it. And if we get in the road at all, pray what are the odds? If we are in, we are in; you are but in the way, who come in at the gate, and we too are in the way that choose to climb the wall. Is not our case as good as yours?"

Christian. - "I walk by the rule of my Lord, but you walk by the rule of your own lusts. The Lord of the way will count you as thieves, and you will not be found true men in the end."

I saw then that they all went on till they came to the foot of the Hill of Difficulty, where there was a spring. There were in the same place two more ways, one on the left hand and one on the right; but the path that Christian was told to take went straight up the hill, and its name is Difficulty, and he saw that the way of life lay there.

Now when Christian got as far as the Spring of Life he drank of it, and then went up the hill. But when the two men saw that it was steep and high, and that there were three ways to choose from, one of them took the path the name of which is Danger, and lost his way in a great wood, and one of them went by the road of Destruction, which led him to a wide field full of dark rocks, where he fell, and rose no more.

I then saw Christian go up the hill, where at first I could see him run, then walk, and then go on his hands and knees, so steep was it. Now half way up was a cave made by the Lord of that hill, that those who came by might rest there. So here Christian sat down, and took out the scroll and read it, till at last he fell off in a deep sleep which kept him there till it was dusk; and while he slept his scroll fell from his hand.

At length a man came up to him and woke him, and said: "Go to the ant, thou man of sloth, and learn of her to be wise."

At this Christian gave a start, and sped on his way, and went at a quick pace.

When he had got near to the top of the hill, two men ran up to meet him, whose names were Timorous and Mistrust, to whom Christian said, "Sirs, what ails you? You run the wrong way."

Timorous said that Zion was the hill they meant to climb, but that when they had got half way they found that they met with more and more risk, so that great fear came on them, and all they could do was to turn back.

"Yes," said Mistrust, "for just in front of us there lay two beasts of prey in our path; we knew not if they slept or not, but we thought that they would fall on us and tear our limbs."

Christian. - "You rouse my fears. Where must I fly to be safe? If I go back to my on town (Destruction) I am sure to lose my life, but if I can get to The Celestial City, there shall I be safe. To turn back is death; to go on is fear of death, but when I come there, a life of bliss that knows no end. I will go on yet."

So Mistrust and Timorous ran down the hill and Christian went on his way. Yet he thought once more of what he had heard from the men, and then he felt in his cloak for his scroll, that he might read it and find some peace. He felt for it but found it not. Then was Christian in great grief, and knew not what to do for the want of that which was to be his pass to The Celestial City. At last, thought he: "I slept in the cave by the side of the hill." So he fell down on his knees to pray that God would give him grace for this act; and then went back to look for his scroll. But as he went, what tongue can tell the grief of Christian's heart? "Oh, fool that I am!" said he, "to sleep in the day time; so to give way to the flesh as to use for ease that rest which the Lord of the hill had made but for the help of the soul!"

Thus, then, with tears and sighs, he went back, and with much care did he look on this side and on that for his scroll. At length he came near to the cave where he had sat and slept. "How far," thought Christian, "have I gone in vain! Such was the lot of the Jews for their sin; they were sent back by the way of the Red Sea; and I am made to tread those steps with grief which I might have trod with joy, had it not been for this sleep. How far might I have been on my way by this time! I am made to tread those steps thrice which I need not to have trod but once; yea, now too I am like to be lost in the night, for the day is well nigh spent. O that I had not slept!"

Now by this time he had come to the vale once more, where for a spell he sat down and wept; but at last, as he cast a sad glance at the foot of the bench, he saw his scroll, which he caught up with haste, and put in his cloak. Words are too weak to tell the joy of Christian when he had got back his scroll. He laid it up in the breast of his coat and gave thanks to God. With what a light step did he now climb the hill! But, ere he got to the top, the sun went down on Christian, and he soon saw that two wild beast stood in his way. "Ah," thought he, "these beasts range in the night for their prey; and if they should meet with me in the dark, how should I fly from them? I see now the cause of all those fears that drove Mistrust and Timorous back."

Still Christian went on, and while he thought thus on this sad lot he cast up his eyes and saw a great house in front of him, the name of which was Beautiful, and it stood just by the side of the high road. So he made haste and went on in the hope that he could rest there a while. The name of the man who kept the lodge of that house was Watchful, and when he saw that Christian made a halt as if he would go back, he came out to him and said: "Is thy strength so small? Fear not the two wild beasts, for they are bound by chains, and are put here to try the faith of those that have it, and to find out those that have none. Keep in the midst of the path and no harm shall come to thee."

Then I saw, in my dream, that still he went on in great dread of the wild beasts; he heard them roar, yet they did him no harm; but when he had gone by them he went on with joy, till he came and stood in front of the lodge where Watchful dwelt.

Christian. - "Sir, what house is this? May I rest here to night?"

Watchful. - "This house was built by the Lord of the Hill to give aid to those who climb up it for the good cause. Tell me, whence come you?"

Christian. - "I am come from the Town of Destruction, and am on my way to Mount Zion; but the day is far spent, and I would, with your leave, pass the night here."

Watchful. - "What is your name?"

Christian. - "My name is now Christian, but at first it was Graceless."

Watchful. - "How is it you came so late? The sun is set."

Christian then told him why it was.

Watchful. - "Well, I will call one that lives here, who, if she like your talk, will let you come in, for these are the rules of the house."

So he rang a bell, at the sound of which there came out at the door a grave and fair maid, whose name was Discretion. When Watchful told her why Christian had come there, she said: "What is your name?"

"It is Christian," said he, "and I much wish to rest here to night, and the more so for I see this place was build by the Lord of the Hill, to screen those from harm who come to it."

So she gave a smile, but the tears stood in her eyes; and in a short time she said: "I will call forth two or three more of our house", and then she ran to the door and brought in Prudence, Piety, and Charity, who met him and said: "Come in, thou blest of the Lord; this house was built by the King of the Hill for such as you." Then Christian bent down his head, and went with them to the house.

Piety. - "Come, good Christian, since our love prompts us to take you in to rest, let us talk with you of all that you have seen on your way."

Christian. - "With a right good will, and I am glad that you should ask it of me."

Prudence. - "And, first, say what is it that makes you wish so much to go to Mount Zion?"

Christian. - "Why there I hope to see Him that did die on the Cross; and there I hope to be rid of all those thing that to this day grieve and vex me. There, they say, is no death; and there I shall dwell with such as love the Lord."

Charity. - "Have you a wife and babes?"

Christian. - "Yes, I have."

Charity. - "And why did you not bring them with you?"

Christian then wept, and said: "Oh, how glad should I have been to do so! but they would not come with me, honor had me leave them."

Charity. - "And did you pray to God to put it in their hearts to go with you?"

Christian. - "Yes, and that with much warmth, for you may think how dear they were to me."

Thus did Christian talk with these friends till it grew dark, and then he took his rest in a large room, the name of which was Peace; there he slept till break of day, and then he sang a hymn.

They told him that he should not leave till they had shown him all the rare things that were in that place. There were to be seen the rod of Moses, the nail with which Jail slew Sisera, the lamps with which Gideon put to flight the host of Median, and the ox goad with which Shamgar slew his foes. And they brought out the jaw bone of an ass with which Samson did such great feats, and the sling and stone with which David slew Goliath of Gath.

Then I saw in my dream that Christian rose to take his leave of Discretion, and of Prudence, Piety, and Charity, but they said that he must stay till the next day, that they might show him The Delectable Mountains; so they took him to the top of the house, and

bade him look to the South, which he did, and lo, a great way off, he saw a rich land, full of hills, woods, vines, shrubs, and streams.

"What is the name of this land?" said Christian.

Then they told him it was Immanuel's Land. And, said they, "It is as much meant for you, and the like of you, as this hill is; and when you reach the place, there you may see the gate of The Celestial City." Then they gave him a sword, and put on him a coat of mail, which was proof from head to foot, lest he should meet some foe in the way; and they went with him down the hill.

"Of a truth," said Christian, "it is as great a toil to come down the hill as it was to go up."

Prudence. - "So it is, for it is a hard thing for a man to go down to The Vale of Humiliation, as thou dost now, and for this cause have we come with you to the foot of the hill." So, though he went with great care, yet he caught a slip or two.

Then in my dream I saw that when they had got to the foot of the hill, these good friends of Christian's gave him a loaf of bread, a flask of wine, and a bunch of dry grapes; and then they left him to go on his way.

But now in this Vale of Humiliation poor Christian was hard put to it, for he had not gone far, ere he saw a foe come in the field to meet him, whose name was Apollyon. Then did Christian fear, and he cast in his mind if he would go back or stand his ground. But Christian thought that as he had no coat of mail on his back, to turn round might give Apollyon a chance to pierce it with his darts. So he stood his ground, "For," thought he, "if but to save my life were all I had in view, still the best way would be to stand."

So he went on, and Apollyon met him with looks of scorn.

Apollyon. - "Whence come you, and to what place are you bound?"

Christian. - "I am come from The City of Destruction, which is a place of all sin, and I am on my way to Zion."

Apollyon. - "By this I see you are mine, for of all that land I am the Prince. How is it, then, that you have left your king? Were it not that I have a hope that you may do me more good, I would strike you to the ground with one blow."

Christian. - "I was born in your realm, it is true, but you drove us too hard, and your wage was such as no man could live on."

Apollyon. - "No prince likes to lose his men, nor will I as yet lose you; so if you will come back, what my realm yields I will give you."

Christian. - "But I am bound by vows to the King of Kings; and how can I, to be true, go back with you?"

Apollyon. - "You have made a change, it seems, from bad to worse; but why not give Him the slip, and come back with me?"

Christian. - "I gave Him my faith, and swore to be true to Him: how can I go back from this?"

Apollyon. - "You did the same to me, and yet I will pass by all, if you will but turn and go back."

Then, when Apollyon saw that Christian was stanch to his Prince, he broke out in a great rage, and said, "I hate that Prince, and I hate his laws, and I am come out to stop you."

Christian. - "Take heed what you do. I am on the King's high way to Zion."

Apollyon. - "I am void of fear, and to prove that I mean what I say, here on this spot I will put thee to death." With that he threw a dart of fire at his breast, but Christian had a shield on his arm, with which he caught it. Then did Christian draw his sword, for he saw

it was time to stir; and Apollyon as fast made at him, and threw darts as thick as hail; with which, in spite of all that Christian could do, Apollyon gave him wounds in his head, hand, and foot.

This made Christian pause in the fight for a time, but Apollyon still came on, and Christian once more took heart. They fought for half a day, till Christian, weak from his wounds, was well nigh spent in strength. When Apollyon saw this, he threw him down with a great force; on which Christian's sword fell out of his hand. Then said Apollyon, "I am sure of thee now."

But while he strove to make an end of Christian, that good man put out his hand in haste to feel for his sword, and caught it. "Boast not, oh Apollyon!" said he, and with that he struck him a blow which made his foe reel back as one that had had his last wound. Then he spread out his wings and fled, so that Christian for a time saw him no more.

Then there came to him a hand which held some of the leaves of the tree of life; some of them Christian took, and as soon as he had put them to his wounds, he saw them heal up. Now near this place was the Valley of the Shadow of Death, and Christian must needs go through it to get to The Celestial City. It was a land of drought and full of pits, a land that none but such as Christian could pass through, and where no man dwelt. So that here he was worst put to it than in his fight with Apollyon, which by and by we shall see.

As he drew near the Shadow of Death he met with two men, to whom Christian thus spoke: "To what place do you go?"

Men. - "Back! Back! and we would have you do the same if you prize life and peace."

Christian. - "But why?"

Men. - "We went on as far as we durst."

Christian. - "What then have you seen?"

Men. - "Seen! Why the Valley of the Shadow of Death; but by dint of good luck we caught sight of what lay in front of it, ere we came up. Death doth spread out his wings there. In a word it is a place full of bad men, where no law dwells."

Christian. - "I see not yet, by what you have told me, but that this is my way to Zion."

Men. - "Be it thy way then; we will not choose it for ours."

So they took their leave, and Christian went on, but still with his drawn sword in his hand, for fear lest he should meet once more with a foe.

I saw then in my dream that so far as this vale went, there was on the right hand a deep ditch; that ditch to which the blind have led the blind as long as the world has been made.

And, lo, on the left hand there was a quag. in which if a man fall, he will find no firm ground for his foot to stand on. The path way was not broad, and so good Christian was the more put to it. This went on for miles, and in the midst of that vale was a deep pit.

One thing which I saw in my dream I must not leave out; it was this: -Just as Christian had come to the mouth of the pit, one of those who dwelt in it swept up to him, and in a soft tone spoke bad things to him, and took God's name in vain, which Christian thought must have come from his own mind. This put him out more than all the rest had done; to think that he should take that name in vain for which he felt so deep a love, was a great grief to him. Yet there was no help for it. Then he thought he heard a voice which said: "Though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no harm for thou art with me."

Now as Christian went on, he found there was a rise in the road, which had been thrown up that that path might be clear to those who were bound for Zion. Up this road Christian went, and saw his old friend Faithful a short way off.

Then said Christian: "Ha, my friend, are you here? Stay, and I will join you."

This ere long he did, and they spoke of all that had come to pass since they had last met. In course of time the road they took brought them to a town, the name of which is Vanity, where there is a fair kept through the whole year, and all that is bought or sold there is vain and void of worth. There, too, are to be seen at all times games, plays, fools, apes, knaves, and rogues. Yet he that will go to The Celestial City must needs pass through this fair.

As soon as Christian and Faithful came to the town, a crowd drew round them, and some said they had lost their wits, to dress and speak as they did, and to set no store by the choice goods for sale in Vanity Fair. When Christian spoke, his words brought from these folks fierce taunts and jeers, and soon the noise and stir grew to such a height that the chief man of the fair sent his friends to take up these two strange men, and he bade them tell him whence they came, and what they did there in such a garb. Christian and Faithful told them all; but those who sat to judge the case thought that they must be mad, or else that they had come to stir up strife at the fair; so they beat them with sticks, and put them in a cage, that they might be a sight for all the men at the fair. Then the worse sort of folks set to pelt them with mud out of spite, and some threw stones at them for mere sport; but Christian and Faithful gave good words for bad, and bore all in such a meek way, that not a few took their part. This led to blows and fights, and the blame was laid on Christian and Faithful, who were then made to toil up and down the fair in chains, till, faint with stripes, they were at length set with their feet in the stocks. But they bore their griefs and woes with joy, for they saw in them a pledge that all should be well in the end. By and by a court sat to try them: the name of the judge was Lord Hate-good; and the crime laid to their charge was that they had come to Vanity Fair to spoil its trade, and stir up strife in the town; and had won not a few men to their side, in spite of the prince of the place.

Faithful said to the Judge: "I am a man of peace, and did but wage war on Sin. As for the prince they speak of, since he is Beelzebub, I hold him in scorn."

Those who took Faithful's part were won by the force of plain truth and right in his words; but the judge said, "Let those speak who know aught of this man."

So three men, whose names were Envy, Superstition, and Pick-thank, stood forth and swore to speak the truth, and tell what they knew of Faithful.

Envy said: "My lord, this man cares nought for kings or laws, but seeks to spread his own views, and to teach men what he calls faith. I heard him say but just now that the ways of our town of Vanity are vile. And does he not in that speak ill of us?"

Then Superstition said: "My lord, I know not much of this man, and have no wish to know more, but of this I am sure, that he is a bad man, for he says that our creeds are vain."

Pick-thank was then bid to say what he knew, and his speech ran thus: "My lord, I have known this man for a long time, and have heard him say things that ought not to be said. He rails at our great Prince Beelzebub, and says that if all men were of his mind, that prince should no more hold sway here. More than this, he hath been heard to rail on you, my lord, who are now his judge."

Then said the Judge to Faithful: "Thou base man! Hast though heard what these folk have said of thee?"

Faithful. - "May I speak a few words in my own cause?"

Judge. - "Thy just doom would be to die on the spot; still, let us hear what thou hast to say."

Faithful. - "I say, then, to Mr. Envy, that all laws and modes of life in which men heed not the Word of God are full of sin. As to the charge of Mr. Superstition, I would urge that nought can save us if we do not the will of God. To Mr. Pick-thank, I say that men should flee from the Prince of this town and his friends, as from the wrath to come. and so, I pray the Lord to help me."

Then the Judge, to sum up the case, spoke thus: "You see this man who has made such a stir in our town. You have heard what these good men have said of him, which he owns to be true. It rests now to you to save his life or hang him."

The twelve men who had Faithful's life in their hands spoke in a low tone thus: "This man is full of schisms, said Mr. Blind-man. "Out of the world with him," said Mr. No-good. "I hate the mere look of him," said Mr. Malice. "From the first I could not bear him," said Mr. Love-ease. "Nor I, for he would be sure to blame my ways," said Mr. Live-loose. "Hang him, hang him!" said Mr. Heady. "A low wretch!" said Mr. High-mind. "I long to crush him," said Mr. Enmity. "He is a rogue," said Mr. Liar. "Death is too good for him," said Mr. Cruelty. "Let us kill him, that he may be out of the way," said Mr. Hate-light. Then said Mr. Implacable: "Not to gain all the world would I make peace with him, so let us doom him to death."

And so they did, and in a short time he was led back to the place from whence he came, there to be put to the worst death that could be thought of; for the scourge, the sword, and the stake brought Faithful to his end.

Now I saw that there stood near the crowd a strange car with two bright steeds, which, as soon as his foes had slain him, took Faithful up through the clouds straight to The Celestial City, with the sound of the harp and lute.

As for Christian, for this time he got free; and there came to him one Hopeful, who did so from what he had heard and seen of Christian and Faithful. Thus, while one lost his life for the truth, a new man rose from his death, to tread the same way with Christian. And Hopeful said there were more men of the fair who would take their time, and then come too.

By and by their way lay just on the bank of a pure stream, from which they drank. On each side of it were green trees that bore fruit, and in a field through which it ran they lay down to sleep. When they woke up they sat for a while in the shade of the boughs; thus they went on for three or four days, and to pass the time they sang:

"He that can tell

What sweet fresh fruit,
yea leaves these trees do yield,
Will soon sell all,
that he may buy this field."

Now on the left hand of the road was By-path Meadow, a fair green field with a path through it, and a stile. "Come, good Hopeful," said Christian, "let us walk on the grass."

Hopeful. - "But what if this path should lead us wrong?"

Christian. - "How can it? Look, doth it not go by the way side?"

So they set off through the field. But they had not gone far when they saw in front of them a man, Vain-confidence by name, who told them that the path led to The Celestial Gate. So the man went first; but lo, the night came on, and it grew so dark that they lost sight of their guide, who, as he did not see the path in front of him, fell in a deep pit, and was heard of no more.

"Where are we now?" said Hopeful.

Then was Christian mute, as he thought he had led his friend out of the way. And now light was seen to flash from the sky, and rain came down in streams.

Hopeful (with a groan) "Oh, that I had kept on my way!"

Christian. - "Who could have thought that this path should lead us wrong?"

Hopeful. - "I had my fears from the first, and so gave you a hint."

Christian. - "Good friend, I grieve that I have brought you out of the right path."

Hopeful. - "Say no more, no doubt it is for our good."

Christian. - "We must not stand thus; let us try to go back."

Hopeful. - "But, good Christian, let me go first."

Then they heard a voice say: "Set thine heart to the high way, the way thou hast been: turn once more." But by this time the stream was deep from the rain that fell, and to go back did not seem safe; yet they went back, though it was so dark and the stream ran so high that once or twice it was like to drown them. Nor could they, with all their skill, get back that night. So they found a screen from the rain, and there they slept till break of day.

Now, not far from the place where they lay was Doubting Castle, the lord of which was Giant Despair; and it was on his ground that they now slept. There Giant Despair found them, and with a gruff voice he bade them wake. "Whence are you?" said he; "and what brought you here?" They told him that they had lost the path. Then said Giant Despair: "You have no right to force your way in here; the ground on which you lie is mine."

They had not much to say, as they knew that they were in fault. So Giant Despair drove them on, and put them in a dark and foul cell in a strong hold. Here they were kept for three days, and they had no light nor food nor a drop to drink all that time, and no one to ask them how they did. Now Giant Despair had a wife, whose name was Diffidence, and he told her what he had done. Then said he, "What will be the best way to treat them?" "Beat them well," said Diffidence.

So when he rose he took a stout stick from a crab tree, and went down to the cell where poor Christian and Hopeful lay, and beat them as if they had been dogs, so that they could not turn on the floor; and they spent all that day in sighs and tears.

The next day he came once more, and found them sore from the stripes, and said that since there was no chance for them to be let out of the cell, their best way would be to put an end to their own lives: "For why should you wish to live," said he, "with all this woe?" But they told him they did hope he would let them go. With that he sprang up with a fierce look, and no doubt would have made an end of them, but that he fell in a fit for a time, and lost the use of his hand; so he drew back, and left them to think of what he had said.

Christian. - "Friend, what shall we do? The life that we now lead is worse than death. For my part I know not which is best, to live thus, or to die at our own hand, as I feel that the grave would be less sad to me than this cell. Shall we let Giant Despair rule us?"

Hopeful. - "In good truth our case is a sad one, and to die would be more sweet to me than to live here; yet let us bear in mind that the Lord of that land to which we go hath said: 'Thou shalt not kill.' And by this act we kill our souls as well. My friend Christian, you talk of ease in the grave, but can a man go to bliss who takes his own life? All the law is not in the hands of Giant Despair. Who knows but that God, who made the world, may cause him to die, or lose the use of his limbs as he did at first. I have made up my mind to pluck up the heart of a man, and to try to get out of this strait. Fool that I was not to do so when first he came to the cell. But let us not put an end to our own lives, for a good time may come yet. By these words did Hopeful change the tone of Christian's mind."

Well, at night the Giant went down to the cell to see if life was still in them, and in good truth that life was in them was all that could be said, for from their wounds and want of food they did no more than just breathe. When Giant Despair found they were not dead, he fell in a great rage, and said that it should be worse with them if they had not been born. At this they shook with fear, and Christian fell down in a swoon; but when he came to, Hopeful said: "My friend, call to mind how strong in faith you have been till now. Say, could Apollyon hurt you, or all that you heard, or saw, or felt in the Valley of the Shadow of Death? Look at the fears, the griefs, the woes that you have gone through. And now to be cast down! I, too, am in this cell, far more weak a man than you, and Giant Despair dealt his blows at me as well as you, and keeps me from food and light. Let us both (if but to shun the shame) bear up as well as we can."

When night came on, the wife of Giant Despair said to him: "Well, will the two men yield?"

To which he said: "No; they choose to stand firm, and will not put an end to their lives." Then said Mrs. Diffidence: "At dawn of day take them to the yard, and show them the graves where all those whom you have put to death have been thrown, and make use of threats this time."

So Giant Despair took them to this place, and said: "In ten days time you shall be thrown in here if you do not yield. Go; get you down to your den once more." With that he beat them all the way back, and there they lay the whole day in a sad plight.

Now, when night was come, Mrs. Diffidence said to Giant Despair: "I fear much that these men live on in hopes to pick the lock of the cell and get free."

"Dost thou say so, my dear?" quoth Giant Despair to his wife; "then at sun rise I will search them."

Now, on that night, as Christian and Hopeful lay in the den, they fell on their knees to pray, and knelt till the day broke; when Christian gave a start, and said: "Fool that I am thus to lie in this dark den when I might walk at large! I have a key in my pouch, the name of which is Promise, that, I feel sure, will turn the lock of all the doors in Doubting Castle."

Then said Hopeful: "That is good news; pluck it from thy breast, and let us try it."

So Christian put it in the lock, when the bolt sprang back, the door flew wide, and Christian and Hopeful both came out. When they got to the yard door the key did just as well; but the lock of the last strong gate of Doubting Castle went hard, yet it did turn at last, though the hinge gave so loud a creak that it woke up Giant Despair, who rose to seek for the two men. But just then he felt his limbs fail, for a fit came on him, so that he could by no means reach their cell. Christian and Hopeful now fled back to the high way,

and were safe out of his grounds. When they sat down to rest on a stile, they said they would warn those who might chance to come on this road. So they cut these words on a post: "This is the way to Doubting Castle, which is kept by Giant Despair, who loves not the King of the Celestial Country, and seeks to kill all who would go there."

Then they came to The Delectable Mountains, which the Lord of the Hill owns. Here they saw fruit trees, vines, shrubs, woods, and streams, and drank and ate of the grapes. Now there were men at the tops of these hills who kept watch on their flocks, and as they stood by the high way, Christian and Hopeful leant on their staves to rest, while thus they spoke to the men: - "Who owns these Delectable Mountains, and whose are the sheep that feed on them?"

Men. - "These hills are Immanuel's, and the sheep are His too, and He laid down his life for them."

Christian. - "Is this the way to The Celestial City?"

Men. - "You are in the right road."

Christian. - "How far is it?"

Men. - "Too far for all but those that shall get there, in good truth."

Christian. - "Is the way safe?"

Men. - "Safe for those for whom it is to be safe; but the men of sin shall fall there."

Christian. - "Is there a place of rest here for those that faint on the road?"

Men. - "The Lord of these Hills gave us a charge to help those that came here, should they be known to us or not; so all the good things of the place are yours."

I then saw in my dream that the men said: "Whence come you, and by what means have you got so far? For but few of those that set out come here to show their face on these hills."

So when Christian and Hopeful told their tale, the men cast a kind glance at them, and said: "With joy we greet you on The Delectable Mountains!"

Their names were Knowledge, Experience, Watchful, and Sincere, and they led Christian and Hopeful by the hand to their tents, and bade them eat of that which was there, and they soon went to their rest for the night.

When the morn broke, the men woke up Christian and Hopeful, and took them to a spot whence they saw a bright view on all sides. Then they went with them to the top of a high hill, the name of which was Error; it was steep on the far off side, and they bade them look down to the foot of it. So Christian and Hopeful cast their eyes down, and saw there some men who had lost their lives by a fall from the top; men who had been made to err, for they had put their trust in false guides.

"Have you not heard of them?" said the men.

Christian. - "Yes, I have."

Men. - "These are they, and to this day they have not been put in a tomb, but are left here to warn men to take good heed how they come too near the brink of this hill."

Then I saw that they had led them to the top of Mount Caution, and bade them look far off. From that stile, said they, there goes a path to Doubting Castle, which is kept by Giant Despair, and the men whom you see there came as you do now, till they got up to that stile; and, as the right way was rough to walk in, they chose to go through a field, and there Giant Despair took them, and shut them up in Doubting Castle, where they were kept in a den for a while, till he at last sent them out quite blind, and there they are still.

At this Christian gave a look at Hopeful, and they both burst out with sobs and tears, but yet said not a word.

Then the four men took them up a high hill, the name of which was Clear, that they might see the gates of The Celestial City, with the aid of a glass to look through, but their hands shook, so they could not see well.

When Christian and Hopeful thought they would move on, one of the men gave them a note of the way, and the next (Experience by name) bade them take heed that they slept not on The Enchanted Ground, and the fourth bade them God Speed. Now it was that I woke from my dream.

Then I slept, and dreamt once more, and saw Christian and Hopeful go down near the foot of these hills, where lies the land of Conceit, which joins the way to Mount Zion, by a small lane. Here they met a brisk lad, whose name was Ignorance, to whom Christian said: "Whence come you, and to what place do you go?"

Ignorance. - "Sir, I was born in the land that lies off there on the left, and I wish to go to The Celestial City."

Christian. - "How do you think to get in at the gate?"

Ignorance. - "Just as the rest of the world do."

Christian. - "But what have you to show at that gate to pass you through it?"

Ignorance. - "I know my Lord's will, and I have led a good life; I pay for all that I have, I give tithes, and give alms, and have left my own land for that to which I now go."

Christian. - "But you came not in at the gate that is at the head of this way, you came in through a small lane; so that I fear, though you may think well of all you have done, that when the time shall come, you will have this laid to your charge, that you are a thief and so you will not get in."

Ignorance. - "Well, since I know you not; you keep to your own creed, and I will keep to mine, and I hope all will be well. And as for the gate that you talk of, all the world knows that it is far from our land, and I do not think that there is a man in all our parts who does so much as know the way to it, and I see not what need there is that he should, since we have, as you see, a fine green lane at the next turn that comes down from our part of the world."

Christian said in a low tone of voice to Hopeful: "There is more hope of a fool than of him."

Hopeful. - "Let us pass on if you will, and talk to him by and by, when, may be, he can bear it."

So they went on, and Ignorance trod in their steps a short way from them, till they saw a road branch off from the one they were in, and they knew not which of the two to take.

As they stood to think of it, a man whose skin was black, but who was clad in a white robe, came to them and said: "Why do you stand here?" They told him that they were on their way to The Celestial City, but knew not which of the two roads to take.

"Come with me, then," said the man, "for it is there that I mean to go."

So they went with him, though it was clear that the road must have made a bend, for they found they would soon turn their backs on The Celestial City.

Ere long, Christian and Hopeful were both caught in a net, and knew not what to do; and with that the white robe fell off the black man's back. Then they saw where they were. So there they sat down and wept.

Christian. - "Did not one of the four men who kept guard on their sheep tell us to take heed lest Flatterer should spread a net for our feet?"

Hopeful. - "Those men, too, gave us a note of the way, but we have not read it, and so have not kept in the right path." Thus they lay in the net to weep and wail.

At last they saw a Bright One come up to them with a whip of fine cord in his hand, who said: "What do you here? Whence come you?"

They told him that their wish was to go to Zion, but that they had been led out of the way by a black man with a white cloak on, who, as he was bound for the same place, said he would show them the road.

Then said he: "It is Flatterer, a false man, who has put on the garb of a Bright One for a time."

So he rent the net and let the men out. Then he bade them come with him, that he might set them on the right way once more. He said: "Where were you last night?"

Quoth they: "With the men who kept watch of their sheep on The Delectable Mountains."

Then he said: "But when you were at a stand why did you not read your note?"

They told him they had not thought of it.

Now I saw in my dream that he bade them lie down, and whipt them sore, to teach them the good way in which they should walk; and he said: "Those whom I love I serve thus."

So they gave him thanks for what he had taught them, and went on the right way up the hill with a song of joy.

At length they came to a land the air of which made men sleep, and here the lids of Hopeful's eyes dropped, and he said: "Let us lie down here and take a nap."

Christian. - "By no means, lest if we sleep we wake no more."

Hopeful. - "Nay, friend Christian, sleep is sweet to the man who has spent the day in toil."

Christian. - "Do you not call to mind that one of the men who kept watch of the sheep bade us take care of The Enchanted Ground? He meant by that that we should take heed not to sleep; so let us not sleep, but watch."

Hopeful. - "I see I am in fault."

Christian. - "Now then, to keep sleep from our eyes I will ask you, as we go, to tell me how you came at first to do as you do now?"

Hopeful. - "Do you mean how came I first to look to the good of my soul?"

Christian. - "Yes."

Hopeful. - "For a long time the things that were seen and sold at Vanity Fair were a great joy to me."

Christian. - "What things do you speak of?"

Hopeful. - "All the good of this life; such as lies, oaths, drink; in a word, love of self and all that tend to kill the soul. But I heard from you and Faithful that the end of these things is death."

Thus did they talk as they went on their way.

But I saw in my dream that by this time Christian and Hopeful had got through The Enchanted Ground and had come to the land of Beulah, where the air is sweet; and as their way lay through this land, they made no haste to quit it, for here they heard the birds sing all day long, and the sun shone day and night; the Valley of Death was on the left, and it was out of the reach of Giant Despair; nor could they from this place so much as see Doubting Castle.

Now were they in sight of Zion, and here some of the Bright Ones came to meet them. Here, too, they heard the voice of those who dwelt in Zion, and had a good view of this land of bliss, which was built of rare gems of all hues, and the streets were laid with gold. So that the rays of light which shone on Christian were too bright for him to bear, and he fell sick, and Hopeful had a fit of the same kind. So they lay by for a time, and wept, for their joy was too much for them.

At length, step by step, they drew near to Zion, and saw that the gates were flung back. A man stood in the way, to whom Christian and Hopeful said: "Whose vines and crops are these?"

He told them they were the king's and were put there to give joy to those who should go on the road. So he bade them eat what fruit they chose, and took them to see the king's walks; where they slept.

Now I saw in my dream that they spoke more in their sleep than they had done all the rest of the way, and I could but muse at this, but the man said: "Why do you muse at it? The juice from the grapes of this vine is so sweet as to cause the lips of them that sleep to speak."

I then saw that when they woke, they would fain go up to Zion; but as I said, the sun threw off such bright rays from The Celestial City, which was built of pure gold, that they could not, as yet, look on it, save through a glass made for that end.

Now as they went, they met with two men in white robes, and the face of each shone bright as the light.

These men said: "Whence come you?" And when they had been told they said: "You have but one thing more to do, which is a hard one, and then you are in Zion."

Christian and Hopeful did then beg of the two men to go with them; which they did. But, said they, "It is by your own faith that you must gain it."

Now 'twixt them and the gate was a fierce stream which was broad and deep; it had no bridge, and the mere sight of it did so stun Christian and Hopeful that they could not move.

But the men who went with them said: "You can not come to the gate but through this stream."

Is there no way but this one to the gate? said poor Christian.

"Yes," quoth they, "but there have been but two men, to wit, Enoch and Elijah who have trod that path since the world was made."

When Christian and Hopeful cast their eyes on the stream once more, they felt their hearts sink with fear, and gave a look this way and that in much dread of the waves. Yet through it lay the way to Zion. "Is the stream all of one depth?" said Christian. He was told that it was not, yet that in that there was no help, for he would find the stream more or less deep, as he had faith in the King of the place.

So they set foot on the stream, but Christian gave a loud cry to his good friend Hopeful, and said: "The waves close round my head, and I sink." Then said Hopeful: "Be of good cheer; my feet feel the bed of the stream, and it is good."

But Christian said: "Ah, Hopeful, the pains of death have got hold of me; I shall not reach the land that I long for." And with that a cloud came on his sight, so that he could not see. Hopeful had much to do to keep Christian's head out of the stream; nay, at times he had quite sunk, and then in a while he would rise up half dead.

Then said Hopeful: "My friend, all this is sent to try if you will call to mind all that God has done for you, and live on Him in your heart.

At these words Hopeful saw that Christian was in deep thought; so he said to him: "Be of good cheer, Christ will make thee whole."

Then Christian broke out with a loud voice: "Oh, I see Him, and He speaks to me and says, "When you pass through the deep streams, I will be with you." And now they both got strength, and the stream was as still as a stone, so that Christian felt the bed of it with his feet, and he could walk through it. Thus they got to the right bank, where the two men in bright robes stood to wait for them, and their clothes were left in the stream.

Now you must bear in mind that Zion was on a steep hill, yet did Christian and Hopeful go up with ease and great speed, for they had these two men to lead them by the arms. The hills stood in the sky, for the base of it was here. So in sweet talk they went up through the air. The Bright Ones told them of the bliss of the place, which they said was such as no tongues could tell, and that there they would see the Tree of Life, and eat of the fruit of it.

"When you come there," said they, "white robes will be put on you, and your talk from day to day shall be with the King for all time. There you shall not see such things as you saw on earth, to wit, care and want, and woe and death. You now go to be with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Christian and Hopeful. - "What must we do there?"

They said: "You will have rest for all your toil, and joy for all your grief. You will reap what you have sown - the fruit of all the tears you shed for the King by the way. In that place you will wear crowns of gold, and have at all times a sight of Him who sits on the throne. There you shall serve Him with love, with shouts of joy and with songs of praise. Now, while they thus drew up to the gate, lo, a host of saints came to meet them, to whom the two Bright Ones said: "These are men who felt love for our Lord when they were in the world, and left all for His name; and He sent us to bring them far on their way, that they might go in and look on their Lord with joy." Then the whole host with great shouts came round on all sides (as it were to guard them); so that it would seem to Christian and Hopeful as if all Zion had come down to meet them. Now, when Christian and Hopeful went in at the gate a great change took place in them, and they were clad in robes that shone like gold. There were bright hosts that came with harps and crowns, and they said to them: "Come, ye, in the joy of the Lord." And then I heard all the bells in Zion ring. Now, just as the gates were flung back for the men to pass in, I had a sight of Zion, which shone like the sun; the ground was of gold, and those who dwelt there had love in their looks, crowns on their heads, and palms in their hands, and with one voice they sent forth shouts of praise. But the gates were now once more shut, and I could but wish that I, too, had gone in to share this bliss. Then I woke, and, lo, it was a dream.

END