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"God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle line,
Beneath whose awful hands we hold
 Dominion over palm and pine:
Lord God of hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard
 All valiant dust that builds on dust
And guarding calls not thee to guard;
For frantic boast and foolish word,
 Thy mercy on thy people, Lord! "

Rudyard Kipling.

THE MIGHTY WORKS OF GOD.

"For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name." Luke 1:49.

These words were spoken by a woman who was about to become the mother of a son. A son who was destined to "Lift empires off their hinges, turn the stream of history out of its channel, and change the whole course of human events." There is always a delightful sense of wonder when we look into the face of a little babe. If we delight to speculate on God's great purpose in the creation of man our sense of wonder knows no bounds. What task has God for these baby hands? What eloquence will one day pour from these feeble lips? What mighty passions will one day move this infant heart? These baby hands, that can now hardly find their way to its mouth, may one day astonish the world with their skill in music, surgery, or painting. A great cause may one day move this baby heart to embrace death rather than surrender the truth. Like Abraham and Moses he may break away from the time-worn conventions of men, and blaze new paths for their feet.

But when the babe is a child of promise how much greater is our sense of wonder and delight. When God has already said, before his is born, "He shall be great in the sight of the Lord," we would look with awe on the baby face then. If it fills our hearts with joy to speculate on his future, how much greater would be the joy of his own mother. It was just such a joy

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that made Mary sing, "He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name."

What great things hath God done for us all? First, He made us potentially great. When David thought of the wonderful power of God in his own creation it made him cry out in wonder, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." He has created us in His own great likeness. Milton says that Satan still preserved a great part of his majesty and glory even in hell. Even in ruin he still had the marks of the Great Creator upon him. Men and women can sink to the level of brutes in their lives and character. But even then they can never shake off the divine majesty of their creation. There is something about a ruined man or woman that makes your heart stand still. Every time you see a boy or girl going astray you want to shout, "Turn back, little one, God didn't make you for that kind of life." No wonder men and women grow sick at heart of the follies and sins of this world. The excitement of play, the satisfaction of lust, the indulgence of an appetite can never satisfy an immortal spirit. Don't blame God if the ball room and the wine glass fail to bring you happiness. He made you for greater things than this. Friends, if God had intended for you to live as some of you are living He wouldn't have wasted so much divine grace and skill in making you.

God created us with a capacity for infinite greatness. Only God knows how great a man or woman may become; for the capacity for greatness increases with

every new height gained. But He has done a greater thing for man than that. The high place God has given man in His creation has set two worlds at strife for dominion over his soul. Just how man became a sinful creature no man fully understands. The short account of man's fall, given in Genesis, is almost too brief to furnish rational ground for speculation. It certainly was not intended to satisfy our curiosity. It is all we have, and is perhaps as well suited to our needs as any that could be given us. If God had given us a literal account of man's fall into sin it is doubtful if our finite minds could have understood it. But there is no denying he is a sinful creature. He is not only sinful by practice, he is sinful by nature. Though the scars of sin cannot wholly efface the God-likeness of his creation, sin has dimmed his understanding, blinded his heart with unbelief, and made him selfish and brutal in his affections. Man at his best is a heaven born creature, loving every other man as his own soul. How different is the savage heart of man as we know it.

Scientists tell us that the sun is being gradually consumed. When it finally goes out this old world will be in almost total darkness. It will grow colder and colder till the very air we breathe becomes solid ice and every living thing dies. They also tell us there are forces in the bowels of the earth, right under our feet, that are capable of tearing this old world into fragments. We walk daily over boiling chasms of lava and fire that

are pressing with almost irresistible force against the thin crust of solid earth. This crust is thinner in proportion to the fiery mass of molten rock than the skin of an orange is to the pulp. But this thin crust has held the raging flood in check for untold ages. It has ripped it open a few times, but always the winds and showers have cooled the rivers of fire till the breach was healed. The cooling lava itself staunches the wound till the flow of fire ceases. How great is the Hand that holds these forces in check!

But there are forces in the untamed heart of man more dangerous than all these combined. This is no imaginary danger. We saw its power twenty years ago, when it made this old world stagger like a drunken man. It will take us a hundred years to build back what the world war destroyed. If two of the major planets in the heavens hurl themselves into each other both will be destroyed. Man, without God's grace, is only a star broken loose from its orbit. Man's spirit untamed is the most dangerous thing in the world today. What can tame this savage spirit?

Secular education cannot tame it. The more enlightened men become the more dangerous they are. Science cannot tame it. Science, in the hands of men of Christ-like spirit can be an untold blessing to men. But as the science has revealed more ways to destroy men than it has to save them.

The only power sufficient to tame man's savage nature is the grace of God. I know there are men who tell us the world has gone beyond such childish beliefs as repentance and a regenerated life. It did go by such beliefs twenty years ago. That is what hurled us into the darkest pit of materialism and horror civilization has ever known. Hear the words of the wisest man that ever passed this way, "Ye must be born again." A spiritual rebirth is today, as it was two thousand years ago, our only hope. When God takes a human heart and empties it of darkness, unbelief, and hatred, and fills it with a pure faith and a divine love, He does a greater work than He did when He created the starry heavens. "He that is mighty hath done to us great things; and holy is his name."

Men and women have about discarded the belief in a personal devil. I don't know whether his is personal in his form or not. I have never seen him. But I know there are two masters in this world, and every one can choose which one he will serve. No matter which one you serve you will be surprised when you get your reward. Men and women who serve the devil are sure of a big surprise when he comes to pay off. Talk about your big cheats. There never has been one like him. There are men and women in prison today for life that he promised great honor and riches if they would go his way. They got a job, but it is awful poor pay.

There are boys and girls today with their heads bowed in shame that he promised great honor and happiness if they would do his way. If you could lift the curtain from the naked souls of men and women who have served him, you would read there, in letters of blood, the bitterest cry of sorrow and disappointment that ever broke from human lips. And you wouldn't find a single one that wasn't surprised. They all expected something for what they gave.

You never saw a man or woman who served the Lord faithfully who wasn't surprised when the reward came. They never dreamed of getting so much. These two women only gave God what they owed Him. If there was no reward for a godly life it is a thousand times better than a wicked one. But when God came to them, with His reward in his hand, they almost fainted for joy.

With what majesty and glory He crowns a life that is fully surrendered to Him! When Kagawa surrendered his life to God it was so frail and diseased that many would have thought it not worth saving. But what a force of righteousness God has made it. With this frail little life He has built up a force of righteousness that is a challenge to the most powerful military party on earth. With this frail little life He has turned a heathen nation's eyes towards God and His Christ. Do you think that Kagawa expected such a reward when he gave that frail diseased life into God's hands?