

Comment by the Editor

FAITH

It is a precious possession, to have faith.

An eloquent young lawyer abandoned a life of convenience to enter the ministry of the church. The work was hard and much of the compensation was in the form of spiritual satisfaction. He preached of virtue and divinity, he went about doing good, he lived according to the teachings of Jesus. Times were hard. To widows and orphans he was as a savior indeed, for his solicitude brought them food and shelter. Presently he established a home for needy children, depending upon the benevolence of friends to maintain it. Many years passed — years of labor, discouragement, and steadfast hope. The minister died in the midst of his work, but the institution he started survived, for his faith was well founded.

In the history of Iowa the story of Reverend Lemen has many parallels. The farmer who staked his hope on the prairie soil and never lost his faith through drought and lower prices, the teacher who sacrificed a fortune for the sake of education, the editor who advocated a righteous cause against the opposition of myopic contemporaries — men of vision in every occupation have

dared to face the challenge of their own ideals. To blaze a new trail in thought or action takes more than courage. Leadership requires ambition, confidence, persistence, and loyalty, which are the materials of faith.

A pioneer has the faculty of seeing rainbows in the clouds. That is because, to him, the storm is over; the best is yet to come. As he gazes into the radiant future, fascinated by the glorious prospect, a surge of optimism swells his breast, all doubt is thrust aside, he strides straight forward, confident and strong. Trouble belongs to the past; let the timid and gloomy look behind. Who cares if the sun is setting? It will rise again tomorrow, earlier than it did to-day. Prepare for the world as it will be.

The buoyant philosophy of the pioneer is founded on faith. His guide is intuition and his motive power is hope. He does not ask for proof nor wait for demonstration: he believes in inspiration and puts his trust in common sense. Accomplishment is his purpose and his work is the fruit of his faith. Self-reliance, devotion to friends, belief in ideals, and steadfast conviction — these are alike the elements of faith and factors of stable society. When faith is lost, banks fail, governments are overthrown, and men fall into cynicism. Faith is the ballast that gives equilibrium to reason.

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