

Christian Endeavor Periscope

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THE LAST MILE

It is not enough to go. We must go **on**. Going on is not sufficient, we must go **through**. Even going through may find us one mile short. We must go through to the **end**. Halting at Haran cost Terah the immortality of founding a nation in Canaan. Laggards and lay-downs lose out. People of quality are never quitters. Stopping one mile short of the Comstock lode lost a prospector millions. Persistence, insistence, resistance,—these furnish the secret of arrival. The last mile of the Atlantic cable gave the other three thousand miles their value. Without the last mile, the St. Gothard tunnel would have left Switzerland and Italy disconnected. The senior year of the College course carries the degree. The last thousand feet of the Matterhorn gives it its distinction. The masterpieces of art won their fame by the final exquisite touches of the artist. Character is changed from crudity to culture by the last decisive measures of self-discipline. Not the first cutting of the diamond releases the imprisoned sunlight, but the final polish. Not the blasting and heavy strokes of the quarryman liberates the angel in the marble but the final delicate blows of the sculptor. Unfinished buildings on every hand proclaim "This man began to build and was not able to finish". But there are thousands of unfinished buildings that might better bear the legend, "This man began to build and might have finished if he had had the courage and the confidence to keep on". All this has definite application to the Christian life. The Christian is pressing toward the greatest goal in the universe. He is out to win heaven and during the process to perfect his character. He has measureless resources at command and has no excuse for stopping until the goal is won. The most astounding fact regarding personal character is the willingness of people to sacrifice years and years of honest and serious endeavor for the want of courage to complete the great task. An unyielding grip on the things that are invisible but eternally real is indispensable to a life that would be truly successful. How any one who has had a real experience with God in genuine conversion can ever yield to the appeal of unbelief is simply inexplicable. It used to be the fashion in the Methodist Class Meeting after giving testimony to close with this appeal: "Pray for me that I may hold out faithful to the end". That sounds rather commonplace, but as a matter of fact Christianity today would be much more wholesome if the same appeal was more general. "Be not weary in well doing for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not" is one of the most encouraging and satisfying of all Scripture assurances. Persist in Bible reading and it will come to be a delight. Continue praying and prayer will be as natural as breathing. Keep up the habits which develop hope and contribute help and health spiritual and you can not fail to become a stalwart in the Christian life. The heroic element in Christianity needs much more attention than it receives. Too much of personal religion is anaemic, flabby, ineffectual. I plead especially with young people to exercise a compelling will power in the development of character and the realization of the highest ideals. Having set your face toward the goal which Christ presents pursue your course without deviation to the very end. Nothing will pay so well as this irrepressible spiritual purpose and application of power.

A. Z. CONRAD.