

### The Meek Ones

The noblemen of earth are they  
Who let the hot word go unspoken,  
And when a scornful thing is said  
Let silence be unbroken.

It takes a manly man to will  
That silence wrath shall over-reach,  
To staunch the blood of wounded pride,  
From over-flowing into speech.

Now men have called the humble "craven,"  
And said that he was soft and weak,  
Because he struck not, being stricken,  
And smote not, for his smitten cheek.

Some men who barter rage for rage  
Avenge their pride with hatred long,  
And these are spoken of as men,  
And these are whom the world calls strong.

Judas, the earthiest clot of earth,  
Had tongue as sharp as poisoned dart—  
Than Christ, the martyred God of worlds,  
There never was a meeker heart.

Thus do I hail the meek as strong,  
And give him praise whom men call weak,  
For tongues of cowards may be proud,  
But only strong men can be meek.

C. J. McD.