



UNDER THE
JUNIPER TREE.



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UNDER THE JUNIPER TREE.

“ Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die.”

(1 Kings xix. ; 2 Tim. iv. ; Rev. iii. 2).

DISHEARTENED and weary he lay

Down under the juniper tree :
So faithless was he—not a ray
Of cheer 'mid the gloom could he see.

“ Apostasy spreads,” hissed the foe,
“ Truth fails . . . all thine
efforts are vain.”

A Voice whispered : “ Though it be
so,

Still ‘ Strengthen the things which
remain.’ ”

“The things which remain! What are they?”

The man of God asked with a sigh.

The Voice breathed: “Around thee to-day,

They faint, they sink, ‘ready to die.’

Though strife and division abound,
Though evil thou canst not restrain,

Yet still ’mid the ruins be found
To ‘Strengthen the things which remain.’ ”

“On earth still *the Spirit* abides,
The gospel still sounds from above;

Go forth and wherever He guides,
Still tell the glad message of love.

The Supper—the bread and the
wine—

Still speaks of the One Who was
slain,

Still spreads thee a feast still divine

Then, 'Strengthen the things
which remain.' "

"Each week still a few meet for
prayer,

And graciously thus are they
led

To cast upon Him all their care,

Who numbers the hairs of their
head ;

And still by His love some are
stirred

To gather in faith yet again

To read and to ponder *the Word*,

And 'Strengthen the things which
remain.' "

' *The little ones* still seek to save ;
Oh ! care for them ; let them be
told—

Of Him Who His life freely gave
To save them as well as the
old.

The *tempest-tossed* and the *bereaved*,
The *sick* in their weakness and
pain,

Still need to be solaced, relieved :
Oh ! ' Strengthen the things which
remain.' "

" ' Stand fast ! ' for *the faith* still
contend,

Rise ! Gird thee, ' Be strong in
the Lord,'

' Hold fast what thou hast to the
end,'

And great then shall be thy
reward

‘The Lord is at hand!’ Ne’er forget

The hope of His coming and reign :
Despond not, nor murmur, nor fret,

But, ‘Strengthen the things which remain.’ ”

“The Church as a witness has failed,
Her lamp-stand has gone from its place,

Her light for her Lord has long
paled,

Yet still shines *the light of His face*.
Look up—see how brilliant it
gleams !

His glory and grace cannot wane ;
Go forth then, reflect His bright
beams,—

Go, ‘Strengthen the things which
remain.’ ”

Then from under the juniper tree,
The servant went forth with this
prayer :—

“ My Lord, still there’s something
for me

To do and to be and to bear ;
Though feeble, despised, and obscure,
My soul by Thy love still con-
strain

For Thee and for Thine to endure,
And ‘ Strengthen the things which
remain.’ ”

S. J. B. C.

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