

MY FAITH, IT IS AN OAKEN STAFF  
(as Thomas Toke Lynch wrote it)

My faith, it is an oaken staff,  
the traveller's well-loved aid;  
my faith, it is a weapon stout,  
the soldier's trusty blade:  
I'll travel on, and still be stirred  
by silent thought or social word,  
by all my perils undeterred,  
a soldier-pilgrim staid.

I have a Captain, and the heart  
of every private man  
has drunk in valour from His eyes  
since first the war began:  
He is most merciful in fight,  
and of His scars a single sight  
the embers of our failing might  
into a flame can fan.

I have a Guide, and in His steps  
where travellers have trod,  
whether beneath was flinty rock  
or yielding grassy sod,  
they cared not, but with force unspent,  
unmoved by pain, they onward went,  
unstayed by pleasures, still they bent  
their zealous course to God.

My faith, it is an oaken staff,  
O let me on it lean;  
my faith, it is a trusty sword,  
may falsehood find it keen!  
Thy Spirit, Lord, to me impart,  
O make me what Thou ever art—  
of patient and courageous heart,  
as all true saints have been.

Ow fydh yw lorgh a dherowbrenn,  
a werez re a gerdh;  
ow fydh yw lown hag ynno trest,  
dhe'n souder arv a nerth:  
yn-rag yth av, ha mevyz fest  
dre breder taw po geryow test  
gans oll peryllyow hwath dilest,  
'vel souder-palmer serth.

'Ma genev vy Hembrynykyaz krev,  
ha kolonn a bub gwas  
re lonkas kolonnekter leun  
a'n derow agan kaz;  
y tiskwedh dhyn tregeredh hel,  
a'y greythyow ev an berra gwel  
an regydhennow a'gan nell  
a fann dhe voz tan bras.

'Ma genev Gid, ha war y lerg  
tus erell eth di kyns,  
kyn fe a-dhann kellester fyrv  
po towargh bleudh yn myns,  
ny vern; gans galloez byth na slak  
dhe lust an byz ma nynz ens stag,  
heb payn yth ethons i yn-rag  
dhe Dhuw war aga hyns.

Ow fydh yw lorgh a dherowbrenn,  
warnedhi my a boes;  
ow fydh yw kledha hag a drogh  
a'n gowyow aga roez.  
Dha Spyryz, Arludh, ri dhymm gwra  
dhe vos aveloz maga ta  
gans perthyans hir ha kolonn dha  
avel an syns a oez.

- Composed by Thomas Toke Lynch, 1855.
- Translated from English into Cornish by Ken George, 2023 Aug 13
- Tune: The staff of faith