

Miscellaneous.

FLOWERS IN HEAVEN.

I was conversing with an aged friend, an infirm widow lady, on experimental religion, and soon we were talking about our heavenly home, for our conversation was frank and free, and we did not curb our thoughts. I was glad it was so, because comfortable things were said, and we felt that it was good to meet and talk to him, and pray to him, with whom one day we expect to dwell. My visit to this poor widow's home was a providential one, and I believe that God was with us in our words.

She had been a kind mother and a good wife, and had borne up under the weight of care and affliction with wonderful courage; but when I saw her, her strength was fast failing, and she was waiting patiently for her appointed time. She had no fear of death. She had, as she thought, given her little all to Jesus, and now she loved to talk of the many mansions which he is preparing, for very soon she expected to exchange for one of them the little wood-colored house to which she had retired; and where she had lived in peace the greater part of the time since the decease of her husband.

It would be pleasant and profitable to review the conversation of those two short hours, but just now I choose rather to pursue a train of thought which was then suggested to my mind. We were reading some of the most precious passages in the Gospel by John: when we came to the sweet verse in our Saviour's last prayer, "Father, I will that they also whom thou has given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory which thou hast given me," the old lady with simple and interesting earnestness said:

"Well, now, tell me what is your idea about heaven? Do you think there are any flowers there?"

Since then I have thought of this very often. Are there flowers in heaven? Why not? God has scattered them all over the face of the earth. He has implanted within us a taste for the beautiful, so that we do not, like the heathen, trample them under our feet, but cultivate them with tender care. They adorn our earthly homes, and make them cheerful. May we not expect them in the Paradise above? Flowers are so sweet and beautiful, that we should think no one could help loving them. But is it not true that those who love most him who made them, love the flowers most? The profane man, the libertine and the infidel do not care much about the flowers. The silent rebuke which these innocents express, as they look up smilingly into the face of guilt, must be terrible indeed. I don't believe there are any flowers in hell. They couldn't live there. If there are no material flames to scorch and kill them, wicked men and bad angels are quite enough to exterminate anything fair and lovely. But purity and holiness shall dwell in heaven and flourish there. There will be the blood-washed saints, and there, too, possibly may be the sweet roses and lilies. God made the flowers, and far away from the haunts of men, in the uninhabited wilderness, they sing their silent praise, and send up their fragrant incense to him. The poet has said:

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,  
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."  
But it is not true. Though no man enjoys its beauty, there is no waste, for God created it for himself.

"Heaven is a place. I go to prepare a place for you," said Jesus. It is the most beautiful place in the universe. Eden was a lovely place, but it was only a type of heaven.

He who has infinite power and everlasting love has provided a home for his people; yes, a beautiful home, but the most important question which any one can ask about it is not, "Will there be violets and tulips, and magnolias there?" but, "Shall I be there?" Concern rather than curiosity should prompt us in our questions—concern for the salvation of souls.

"Will my father be there? My mother? My sister? My friends? Will those dear children in my Sabbath school class be there? Will they all, with glorified bodies, stand around the white throne, and sing the songs of Moses and the Lamb?"—S. S. Times.

GOD'S LITTLE GIRL.

"Papa, dear Papa," exclaimed little May Davis, as bounding into the library, she threw her arms around her father's neck, "I am so very, very glad that I am your little girl. For to-day I walked home from school with Fannie Vale, to see her little kitten; and Mr. Vale was so cross to Fannie; he scolded her for being late, when indeed she could not help it, and said it was a shame for a girl ten years old to play with a cat. I know I am very often naughty, papa; but I should be ten times worse if Mr. Vale was my father. Oh! I am so very glad that I am your little girl."

"How did your friend Fannie behave?" asked Mr. Davis, as he kissed his earnest little one. "Did she answer back angrily?"

"No, indeed," said May. "Fannie behaved beautifully—a thousand times better than I would have done. She told her father that she was very sorry to be so late, and then, putting down the pretty little kitten, asked if there was not something he would like her to do for him. Do you see how she can be so good, papa?"

"Yes, my darling," replied Mr. Davis. "For I know your little girl Fannie is, and I only wish my little daughter was a child of the same father."

"Indeed, I wouldn't like to have Fannie's father for mine," said May. "And I don't see why you would wish such a thing either."

"About a year ago, Fannie gave her heart to Jesus, and now she is God's little girl—that is what I mean," replied Mr. Davis.

"God's little girl?" repeated May. "And does he keep her from being other naughty? And is that why she is always happy?"

"Yes, darling, that is it," said Mr. Davis. "And then, papa, whispered May, hiding her face on his shoulder, "I wish—I wish that I was God's little girl too."

"He would love to have you for his child," replied her father, "and will make you his now, if my little daughter will only ask him."

"But I don't know how," May answered, looking up sadly; and besides, I am not half good enough to be God's little girl."

"Jesus says, 'Suffer little children to come unto me,'" replied her father. "He does not say, 'Suffer good little children to come,' but all children, no matter how naughty, if they only wish to be good. He will take my little daughter's sinful heart away, and make her holy, if she will only ask him."

"But is Fannie really God's little girl?" asked May. "She loves to laugh and play just like other children, and always seems so merry! Now, I thought that when little girl became so very religious, they looked grave, and did not care to play as I do."

"Does May remember the day, last summer, when she was told in the word?" asked her father.

"Yes, indeed," replied the child. "I never can forget that day; nor how I cried if you came and found me."

"Did my little daughter enjoy the beautiful flowers, and the birds that sang so sweetly in the trees, better when wandering all alone, or when I found her, and we walked home together, hand in hand?" asked Mr. Davis.

"Oh! after you found me, papa," exclaimed May; "for then I felt so safe, so happy, that the flowers

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

1865.

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Woolens, French Merinos, Coburgs,

LUSTRES, ALPACAS, LLAMAS,

Dress Stuffs, of all descriptions,

Shawls, Silks, and Velvets,

RIBBONS, LACES, MUFFLERS,

PRINTS, GREY AND WHITE COTTONS,

SHEETINGS, REGATTA SHIRTINGS,

Osnaburgs, Linings, Hollands, Linens,

HOSIERY, GLOVES, HABERDASHERY,

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Fishing Thread,

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THOMAS R. JONES.

May 24, 1865.

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MRS. WINSLOW

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SOOTHING SYRUP,

For Children Teething,

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THIRTY YEARS, AND IN CONFIDENCE AND TRUTH OF IT,

NEVER HAS BEEN GIVEN UP BY ANY OTHER MEDICINE

TO REFLECT A CURE, WHEN TIMELY USED. NEVER DID WE

KNOW AN INSTANCE OF DISTRESS FROM ANY CHILD WHO USED

THIS SYRUP. ALL ARE DELIGHTED WITH ITS EFFECTS, AND

SPEAK IN TERMS OF HIGHEST COMMENDATION OF ITS MAGNIFICENT

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AND STILL THEY COME!

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