

Poetry.

OUR ONE LIFE.

'Tis not for man to trifle; life is brief,
And sin is here.
Our age is but the falling of a leaf—
A dropping tear.
We have no time to sport away the hours;
All must be earnest in a world like ours.

Not many lives, but only one have we—
One, only one;
How sacred should that one life ever be—
That narrow span!

Day after day filled up with blessed toil—
Hour after hour still bringing in new spoil.

Our being is no shadow of thin air—
No vacant dream—
No fable of the things that never were,
But only seem;

'Tis full of meaning as of mystery,
Though strange and solemn as that meaning be.

Our sorrows are no phantom of the night—
No idle tale—
No cloud that floats along a sky of light
On summer gale.

They are the true realities of earth—
Friends and companions even from our birth.

O life below—how brief, and poor our birth!
One heavy sigh.

O life above—how long, how fair, and glad!
An endless joy.

Oh, to be done with daily dying here,
Oh, to begin the living in you sphere!

O day of time, how dark! O sky and earth,
How dull you're here!

O day of Christ, how bright! O sky and earth,
How new and fair!

Come, better Eden, with thy fresher green;
Come, brighter Salem, gladden all the scene!

Miscellaneous.

THE BABY IN THE BROWN COTTAGE.

A small brown cottage stood on the road-side opposite an old mill. From the door you could see the great wheel slowly turning; and when the air was still you could hear the dull rumbling of machinery. The miller's family lived in the brown cottage. Shall I tell you how many were in this family? Just three. Two little girls and a baby. But where was the mother? You ask.

There was no mother in the miller's brown cottage; only two little girls and a baby. One month ago the mother's early life failed and flickered, and you have seen the light of a lamp when the oil was consumed. Then it went out; and there were tears and grief in the brown cottage.

As for the mother, sorrow and sickness had made both heart and body weak. For a long time before she died a great shadow rested on her life—a shadow that grew darker day by day. But she was loving and pure, and in his own good world, the Lord closed her eyes on this lower world that life might open them in heaven. And so she went to dwell with angels, leaving her helpless babe with only her two little girls—babes almost themselves—to care for him. It was not her wish to go. Sad as her life was, she would have clung to it if it had been a thousand times sadder for the sake of her little ones. But God knew what was best for her and those she loved, and so took her to himself.

"Where was the baby's father?" I hear asked. "Did he not love and care for it; and for his little girls also?"

I said that a shadow rested on the poor mother's heart; a shadow that grew darker every day. Such shadows rest on many hearts. The miller had once been the kindest of husbands and the tenderest of fathers. What had changed him? Drink! You know too well what that means.

Once he took a glass of beer only now and then; not that he made him feel any better, but rather worse, for it produced a heaviness of head and limbs that was very unpleasant when it lasted. Sometimes a head-ache was the consequence. But others drank beer, and he joined in the useless and unwise custom.

After a while this unwholesome stall so changed the healthy natural state of his stomach, that it began to crave the bitter and stimulating draught. Then he drank often; which, of course, only made it worse—increasing the unhealthy condition, and likewise the craving thirst that could never be satisfied—no, not even with beer; and so, at times, whiskey, gin, and brandy were taken. These led him, by a quicker way than that of beer; because they are more fiery and burn with a fiercer flame.

You can understand now, why a shadow had rested on the mother of these children; and why it had grown darker every day.

The baby was a year old. Hester, or Hetty, as she was called, had just passed her tenth birthday; and Mary was seven. So young, and motherless!

At first thought it seems as if it would have been better for them to be fatherless also. But God knows what is best always. His tender care was over these little ones, and over their father too.

Now, that baby was one of the loveliest things alive—so sweet and pure; so gentle, and yet so full of infantile joy; and so winning in all his ways that none could help loving him.

This neighbor and that offered to take him when his mother died, but Hetty, who had seen him grow into a woman all at once, said, "No, no, I can't part from baby."

Then a lady, who had no children, took the half-drunken, wretched father aside and talked to him until he consented to let her have the baby and bring him up as her own. She wanted to carry him right off; but the miller said, "No, not until to-morrow."

"Better let me take him now," urged the lady.

For Hetty's sake the miller repeated his "No." He knew how great was her love for the baby, and there was enough of tenderness left in his heart to keep him from adding this to her grief on the day of her mother's burial.

Now it happened that Hetty, unknown to her father and the woman, had heard what passed between them. At first she was almost beside herself with pain. It was as much as her heart could bear to lose her mother, and she felt that to take baby away would, as she said afterwards, "just kill her."

The funeral over, all the neighbors went home, except two more tender-hearted and pitying than the rest. It seemed cruel to them to turn their backs upon these two little girls and the sweet baby left motherless.

One of them had been a very dear friend of the miller's wife, and she grieved for her loss as for that of a beloved sister.

Taking Hetty by the hand, and leading her into her mother's room, now so still and desolate, she shut the door, and putting her arms about the child, burst into tears and wept over her for a long time before she could get calm enough to speak.

"I want to talk with you, Hetty," she said, at length, as she sat down and composed herself. The blinding tears died out of Hetty's eyes and she fixed them wishfully on the woman's face.

"What are you going to do?" Ah that was the hardest of all questions to answer.

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Saint John Building Society

AND INVESTMENT FUND.
Incorporated by Act of the Provincial Legislature
18th Vic., Chap. 23.

Board of Management.
EDWARD ALMOND, Esq., Chairman, and Hon. Secy.
JAMES WOODWARD, Esq., Treasurer, and Hon. Secy.
JAMES WOODWARD, Esq., Treasurer, and Hon. Secy.
JAMES WOODWARD, Esq., Treasurer, and Hon. Secy.

Bankers.—Commercial Bank of New Brunswick.
SOL. TORR, Esq., M. J. JAMES, Esq., and Hon. Secy.

Secretaries.—M. J. JAMES, Esq., and Hon. Secy.

Advances made to buy, build, or redeem property, repayable by instalments.

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE TEETH.

Preservative Gum Tooth Powder; Common Aromatic Tooth Paste; Rosin and Glycerine; Dr. Fisk's New Tooth Paste; Dr. Fisk's New Tooth Paste; Dr. Fisk's New Tooth Paste.

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ROGERS' MEDICINES.

After a test of four years, before the public, are still increasing in popularity, because they are so much more effective than any other medicine.

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