

## Poetry.

## CHEERFULNESS.

BY ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.  
I think we are too ready with complaint  
In this fair world of God's. Had we no hope  
Indeed beyond the zenith and the slope  
Of you gray blank of sky, we might be faint  
To muse upon eternity's constraint  
Round our aspirant souls. But since the scope  
Must widen early, is it well to droop  
For a few days consumed in loss and taint?  
O pusillanimous Heart, be comforted—  
And like a cheerful traveller, take the road—  
Singing beside the hedge. What if the bread  
Be bitter in thine inn, and thou unshod  
To meet the flints? At least it may be said,  
"Because the way is short, I thank thee, God!"

## The Family.

## "I WANT TO BE AN ANGEL."

A child sat in the door of a cottage at the close of a summer Sabbath. The twilight was fading, and as the shades of evening darkened, one after another of the stars shone in the sky, and looked down on the child in his thoughtful mood. He was looking up at the stars and counting them as they came, till they were too many to be counted, and his eyes wandered all over the heavens, watching the bright worlds above. He was so absorbed, that his mother called to him and said:

"My son, what are you thinking of?"

He started as if suddenly aroused from sleep, and answered:

"I was thinking—"

"Yes," said his mother, "I knew you were thinking, but what were you thinking about?"

"Oh," said he, and his little eyes sparkled with the thought, "I want to be an angel."

"And why, my son, would you be an angel?"

"Heaven is up there, is it not mother? and there the angels live, and love God, and are happy; I do wish I was good, and God would take me there, and let me wait on him for ever."

The mother called him to her knee, and he leaned on her bosom and wept. She wept too, and smoothed the soft hair of his head as he stood there, and kissed his forehead, and then told him that if he would give his heart to God, now while he was young, that the Saviour would forgive all his sins, and take him up to heaven when he died, and then he would be with God for ever.

His young heart was comforted. He knelt at his mother's side and said:—

"Jesus, Saviour, Son of God,  
Wash me in thy precious blood;  
I thy little lamb would be,  
Help me, Lord, to look to thee."

The mother took the young child to his chamber, and soon he was asleep, dreaming perhaps of angels and heaven.

A few months afterwards sickness was on him, and the light of that cottage, and the joy of that mother's heart, went out. He breathed his last in her arms, and as he took her parting kiss, he whispered in her ear:

"I am going to be an angel."  
Little reader, do not you wish to be angel?"

## HOME AFFECTIONS.

The heart has memories that never die. The rough rubs of the world cannot obliterate them. They are memories of home, early home. There is magic in the very sound. There is the old tree under which the light-hearted boy swung many a summer day; yonder the river in which he learned to swim; there the house in which he knew a parent's love, and found a parent's protection—nay, there is the room in which he romped with brother or sister, long since, alas! laid in the yard in which he must soon be gathered, overshadowed by yon old church, whither with a joyous troop like himself he has often followed, his parents to worship with, and hear the good old man who ministered at the altar. Why, even the very school-house associated in youthful days with thoughts of ferula and tasks, now comes back to bring pleasant remembrances of many an occasion that called forth some generous exhibition of the noblest traits of human nature. There is where he learned to feel some of his best emotions. There, perchance, he first met the being who by her love and tenderness in after life, has made a home for himself, happier even than that which his childhood knew. There are certain feelings of humanity, and those too, among the best that can find an appropriate place for their exercise only by

one's own fireside. There is a sacredness in the privacy of that spot which it were a species of indiscretion to violate. He who seeks wantonly to invade it, is neither more nor less than a villain; and hence there exists no surer test of the debasement of morals in community, than the disposition to tolerate in any mode the man who disregards the sanctities of private life. In the turmoil of the world let there be at least one spot where the poor man may find affection that is disinterested, where he may indulge a confidence which is not likely to be abused.—*Dr. Hawkes.*

## AN INTERESTING INCIDENT.

A little Indian boy, named Jack, in the Indian school established on the Red river by Rev. Messrs. West and Cockran, missionaries of the English Church Missionary Society, was taken very sick. In this condition one of the missionaries visited him, and observing a Bible lying under the corner of his blanket, he said:

"Jack, you have a friend there; I am glad to see that; I hope you find good from it."

Weak, and almost dying as the poor fellow was, he raised himself on his elbow, held the Bible in his emaciated hand, and while a smile played on his countenance, he said,

"This, sir, is my dear friend. You gave it to me when we all went down to live at Mr. Cockran's. For a long time I have read it much, and often thought of what it told me. Last winter I went to see my sister across Lake Winnipeg, about two hundred miles off, where I remained two months. When I was half way back over the lake, I remembered that I had left my Bible behind me. I directly turned around, and was nine days by myself, tossing to and fro in my canoe, before I could reach the place; but I found my friend, and determined that I would not part with it again: and ever since that time it has ever been near my breast. And I have been thinking that I should have the blessed book buried with me; but I have thought since, that I had better give it to you when I am gone, and it may do some one else good."

While speaking thus he was often interrupted by his cough; and when he had finished, he sunk down upon his pillow entirely exhausted; and soon after he died and went to his reward—another trophy of the grace of God, through the instrumentality of his Word, which is able to make men wise unto salvation.

## SWEET THOUGHT.

Whenever we find our temper ruffled toward a parent, a wife, a sister or brother, we should pause and think, that in some few months or years they will be in the spirit land, watching over us, or perchance that we shall be there watching over them left behind. The intercourse of life between dear ones, should be like that between guardian angels. As charming Hunt sings:

How sweet it were, if without feeble fright,  
Or dying of the dreadful beauteous sight,  
An angel came to us and we could bear  
To see him issue from the silent air  
At evening in our room, and bend on ours  
His eyes divine, and bring us from his bowers  
News of dear friends, and children who have never  
Been dead indeed—as we shall know for ever.  
Alas! we think not what we daily see  
About our hearths—angels that are to be,  
Or may be if they will, and we prepare  
Their souls and ours to meet in happy air—  
A child, a friend, a wife whose soft heart sings  
In unison with ours, breeding its future wings.

**Absorbed in Business.**—Some men devote themselves so exclusively to their business, as to almost entirely neglect their domestic and social relations. A gentleman of this class having failed, was asked what he intended to do. "I am going home to get acquainted with my wife and children," said he.

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