

Poetry.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

THE DEATH OF THE BEAUTIFUL.

Death has a note in yonder sky,
And a tone in yonder tree,
And a tint of his shade in Beauty's eye
How brilliant so'er it be.
A worm in the bud, a blight in the leaf,
A canker that works full sure and brief.—

I saw her wither day by day,
As withers the flower of June,
And her joy and radiance waned away
Like the face of the round full moon.
Her step grew light on the summer grass,
And her form but a dream of that which was.

Oh earth, and earth born joyousness,
Grow ye dark as the desolate grave,
Where the mouldering dust lies tenantless,
And the rank weeds idly wave?
Oh what is song's melodious breath
Or the magic of mirth, to the ear of death?

I saw her wither day by day,
Like the last bright star of morn,
When it wastes in the welkin ray by ray
Till its gushing life is borne.—
Borne like the leaf on the swelling tide
When Autumn the gorgeous wood bath dyed.

She died—alas, the lovely die,
Yet wander'd no fond regret,
As she seen'd the tint in a summer sky,
When its radiant orb is set—
That beam which illumines the early night
With something above which is calm and bright.

She floated on—that beauteous one,
As a lovely voice may die,
When rapture hath gather'd its last sweet tone
To the crystal walls on high:
She standeth before the sapphire Throne,
She harpeth to Him who sits thereon.

J.

The Family.

THE DYING BOY'S REQUEST.

The sweet soft air of a June morning fanned the round red cheeks of a fine-looking boy, some eight years of age, as, with satchel on his arm, and smiles on his lips, he ran gaily along the grassy path to school. He was a child one might love at first sight—he had so frank and honest an expression of countenance, that you would feel yourself immediately attached to him. Then so ruddy withal, none would fear that he would be the occupant of an early grave. Alas! what are more deceitful than appearances? Nothing!

It is now high noon. The breeze is sleeping; the sun is pouring out the full blaze of his glory; our little friend, we may call him Edward, is returning from school. His step, however, is slow, his cheek pale, his eye dull, and an air of languor has gathered upon his features. The boy is sick!

Rapid are the steps by which he descends to the gates of death. There he lies in the last hour of life; the struggle with the King of Terrors has commenced. Looking up to his father, he says, "Pa, must I die?"

"Yes, my dear, I am afraid you must," replies the heart-broken parent.

"Pa, won't you go into the grave with me?"

"I can't, my child?"

"But, pa, I don't like to go there alone; it looks so dark."

"Be not afraid, my son; Jesus, the friend of sinners, will go with you, if you ask him."

The child looked earnestly at his father, slowly turned his face towards the wall, and for a few moments his lips looked like those of faithful Hannah. Presently he turned his head towards his father, with a smile of ineffable joy playing on his quivering lips, and said "I am not afraid to die now, for Jesus will go with me, and I shall be safe."

Gradually his eyes closed, his features settled into the fixedness of death, his breathing grew less and less distinct, until his pulse stood still; his heart ceased its action, and the suffering boy was changed into a bright seraph, floating on silvery wings in the sweet atmosphere of heaven.

Children! would you die as died little Edward? Then pray to Him who says, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not," and he will deliver you from the power of sin, and the fear of death. Pray, I say, to Jesus, and trust your souls to his care.

THE SECRET.

I noticed, said Franklin, a mechanic among a number of others, at work on a house erecting but a little way from my office, who always appeared to be in a merry humor, who had a kind word and a cheerful smile for every one he met. Let the day be ever so cold, gloomy, or sunless, a happy smile danced like a sunbeam on his cheerful countenance. Meeting him one morning, I asked him to tell me the secret of his constant happy flow of spirits. "No secret, Dr.," he replied; "I have got one of the best of wives, and when I go to work she always has a kind word of encouragement for me, and when I go home, she meets me with a smile and a kiss, and then tea is sure to be ready, and she has done so many little things through the day to please me, that I cannot find it in my heart to speak an unkind word to anybody." What an influence, then, hath woman over the heart of man, to soften it and make it the fountain of cheerful and pure emotions. Speak gently, then,—a happy smile and a kind word of greeting, after the toils of the day are over, costs nothing, and go far toward making a home happy and peaceful.

TRUE PHILOSOPHY.

I saw a pale mourner stand bending over the tomb, and his tears fell fast and often. As he raised his humid eyes to heaven, he cried,

"My brother! oh my brother!"
A sage passed that way, and said,
"For whom dost thou mourn?"

"One," replied he, "whom I did not sufficiently love while living; but whose inestimable worth I now feel?"

"What wouldst thou do, if he were restored to thee?"

The mourner replied "that he would never offend him by any unkind word, but he would take every occasion to show his friendship, if he could but come back to his fond embrace."

"Then waste no time in useless grief," said the sage, "but if thou hast friends, go and cherish the living, remembering that they will die one day also."

WHAT WILL RUIN CHILDREN.

To have parents exercise partiality. This practice is lamentably prevalent. The first born or last, the only son or daughter, the beauty or the wit of the household, is too commonly set apart—Joseph-like.

To be frequently put out of temper. A child ought to be spared, as far as possible, all just causes of irritation; and never to be punished for doing wrong by taunts, cuffs or ridicule.

To be suffered to go uncorrected to-day in the very thing for which chastisement was inflicted yesterday. With as much reason might a watch which should be wound back half the time, be expected to run well, as a child, thus trained, to become possessed of an estimable character.

To be corrected for accidental faults with as much severity as though they were done intentionally.

The child who does ill when he meant to do well, merits pity, not upbraiding. The disappointment of its young projector, attendant on the disastrous failure of any little enterprise, is of itself sufficient punishment, even where the result was brought about by carelessness. To add more is as cruel as it is hurtful.

Parents who give a child to understand that he is a burden to them, need not be surprised, should they one day be given to understand that they are burdensome to him.

SHOW AND COMFORT.

There are many persons in the world so constituted that the most intense enjoyment of which they are capable consists in making a display. It must be so, otherwise we should not all see that is comprehended in the meaning of that genial word, comfort, so frequently sacrificed for the sake of external show. There are establishments in this city where the family dinner is cut down to the proportions of a lunch, the kitchen fire fed sparingly, the tea diluted to the extreme point of exhaustion, the butter, sugar, candles, and soap doled out homoeopathically, and even the supply of clean linen abridged below what we should consider the limits of necessity, in order that the lady of the house may give a few grand galas during the season, refurbish and recarpet her reception rooms every two years or so, sweep the streets with brocade silks, wear the newest styles of bijouterie, and make a sensation in the glittering spectacles got up

for the effect by the artificialists of the world of fashion.

THE HAPPIEST MAN.

Let a man have all the world can give, he is still miserable, if he has a grovelling, unlettered, undevout mind. Let him have his gardens, his fields, his lawns for grandeur, plenty, ornament and gratification; while at the same time God is not at all in his thoughts. And let another have neither field nor garden; let him only look at nature with an enlightened mind—a mind which can see and adore the Creator in all his works, can consider them as demonstrations of his power, his wisdom, his goodness and truth—this man is greater as well as happier in his poverty than the other in his riches; the one is little higher than the beast, the other a little lower than an angel.—Jones.

BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE.

The late President Dwight, of Yale College, was once rather astonished to hear a student read the following passage, in a piece of his own composition: "As we read in scripture, it is better that ninety-nine guilty men should escape, than one innocent man should perish." "Stop, sir!" said the doctor. "In what chapter of that book, do you find that saying?" The student hesitated and stammered, as well he might, for the manner of Mr. Dwight was wonderfully dignified and impressive. After enjoying the student's confusion for a moment, he said, "You will find it in the same book, and in the same chapter of the book, as that other remarkable saying, 'Let every tub stand on its own bottom.' Go on, sir." We should not be surprised to learn that Olds was a near relative of that accomplished biblical scholar.—Buffalo Com.

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