

Poetry.

Zion.

Translated from the German of Karl Gerok. BY REV. HENRY S. BURRAGE.

Lead me to the gates of Zion, Let me tread the sacred street; Where the Lord hath made His dwelling, Thither press my weary feet.

II.

Say, where is the marble staircase To the ancient royal halls, Thronged by princes, robed in purple Stately as their palace walls?

III.

Say, where is the holy temple That adorned Moriah's crest With its holiest of holies, By Jehovah's presence blest;

IV.

Where, too, are thy sons, O Zion, Strong and fearless in the fight? Where thy daughters, in their beauty Glorifying in Israel's might?

Zion, say, where are the strangers Who, from Beersheba to Dan, Hither came, a crowd of pilgrims, Ere each festival began?

VII.

From thy heights at length I turn me To the once fair, fertile land,— To the rocky walls of Moab, To the blue sea's golden strand.

Zion, Zion, God's great judgments, Heavily upon thee rest; Bowing down to worthless idols Thou hast found thyself unblest.

Small Keys and Great Treasures. No. 4. BY REV. J. E. CRACKNELL, YORK TOWN, SURREY, ENGLAND.

"One Thing."

Let us study the Word of God in the frequent allusions to "one thing," and we shall find its teachings precious and all-important.

I. "ONE THING DESIRED."

The Psalmist said (Ps. xvii. 4.) "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after." Here is unity of desire.

surrounding circumstances; but the desire of the heart when alone may be accepted as a true index of its condition. A heavenly mind gathers itself up into one wish, the new creature has one main desire, to enjoy God.

2. "ONE THING LACKING."

Jesus said (Mark x. 21.) "One thing thou lackest." What did this man lack? Not earnestness, for he came running, anxious to obtain what he sought.

3. "ONE THING NEEDFUL."

Jesus said, (Luke x. 42.) "But one thing is needful." What is the one thing needful? Various answers have been given such as faith, love, or a teachable spirit;

4. "ONE THING KNOWN."

John. ix. 25, "One thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see." He was a wise man, he refused to be perplexed by questions beyond his present attainments,

5. "ONE THING TO BE DONE."

Phillipians iii. 13. "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things that are before," etc.

Nearly every figure by which Christians are described in the Bible, implies progress. The apostle stands out as a bright example in the matter, leading the way and charging us to follow him as he followed Christ.

But far as glorying in any past attainments, and indulging in vain congratulations, he would "forget those things which are behind and reach forth unto those things which are before," employing all his energy and putting forth every exertion in order to press forward, like the racer who sought to win the prize.

Illinois Correspondence.

MR. EDITOR,—

As you and some of your readers have lived in this part of the world, you may wish to hear from us again. Well, we are having an old fashioned Eastern Winter and very much unlike the muddy one a year ago, or even any you ever spent in the West.

The religious interests are not what they ought to be; very few revivals have been enjoyed during the past two years. Most of the churches are supplied with earnest pastors and are pretty faithfully attending to their ordinary religious work.

Wonderful changes have taken place in this country within a few years. Illinois has already grown to be one of the largest and most important States in the Union.

I remember while a resident of your city, reading of the building of many fine and costly churches, and of their being dedicated free of debt. But the "free from debt" only meant that the debt had been provided for by individual and society pledges, which could never be realized,

In Ezra's day there was a repetition of the same old story. Some people doubt whether we should ask the outside world to give. Here Cyrus, a heathen king, headed the subscription-list with something worthy of a monarch. He was followed by the princes and common people with money, goods, beasts of burden, anything and everything that could be serviceable at Jerusalem, to help rebuild "the tabernacle of David, which was fallen down."

We take special note of all that you are doing for Acadia College and Foreign Missions, as well as Home Missions, and the work in the churches, and greatly rejoice in your prosperity.

Taking Collections.

BY W. W. ASHMORE, D.D.

Let it be remembered that this is an old-fashioned Bible custom. Certainly it is entitled to some respect on this account. Let our brethren take their books in hand and have a Bible reading on this subject;

The originator of collections was none other than God himself, and Moses was the first person that ever went around taking them. "This thing which the Lord commanded saying, 'Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord. Whosoever is of a willing heart let him bring an offering.'" The people complied.

Then along came King David and he took collections. He first made a contribution of his own; more than all the Baptists in the United States give for a whole generation. He was followed by the chief men of the nation, and then came the rank and file of the people with their gifts, large and small, according to their willingness and ability.

Many years later the same temple of David and Solomon got out of repair. Joshua the king decided that something must be done. He did not sit down like some of the "old school" members of our "new school" Baptist churches and say "If the Lord wants his house cared for he will attend to it himself."

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It is noticeable here that everybody gave something, for the record says: "All they that were about them." Very few churches now-a-days can say as much as that. The Board of Ezra's who have their headquarters at 71 Randolph street, in Dr. Blackall's office, if making a report of the style of the original Ezra, would have to alter their record, and make it read concerning many churches, "None of them which were about them" ever did anything to spread the gospel beyond their own school-district.

But is it not true that the congregation of Israel begin to do more?

No doubt but down to the millennium there will be persons who will dislike collections. These will be in two classes: (1) Those who don't want to give, and (2) those who seem to think God's work is not dependent on human agency. There is hope for the last class if they can only be induced to study their Bibles. They will see that God has chosen to carry on his work by human agency to a certain extent.

Nothing is said yet of the New Testament usage.—Standard.

FOR SALE.

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