

Mrs. Sher

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Poetry.

The Judgment.

From Pollok's "Course of Time."

The judge that took a bribe; he who mis-
 Pleaded the widow's cause, and by delay
 Delaying ever, made the law at night
 More intricate than at the dawn, and on
 The morrow farther from a close, than when
 The sun last set, till he who in the suit
 Was poorest, by his emptied coffers, proved
 His cause the worst; and he that had the bag
 Of weights deceitful, and the balance false;
 And he that with a fraudulent lip deceived
 In buying or in selling;—these, that morn.
 Found custom no excuse for sin, and knew
 Plain dealing was a virtue, but too late.
 And he that was supposed to do nor good
 Nor ill, surprised, could find no neutral ground;
 And learned, that to do nothing was to serve
 The devil, and transgress the laws of God.
 The noisy quack, that by profession lied,
 And uttered falsehoods of enormous size,
 With countenance as grave as truth besmeared;
 And he that lied for pleasure, whom a lust
 Of being heard, and making people stare,
 And a most steadfast hate of silence, drove
 Far wide of sacred truth, who never took
 The pains to think of what he was to say,
 But still made haste to speak, with weary tongue,
 Like copious stream for ever flowing on—
 Read clearly in the lettered heavens what long
 Before they might have read of. For every word
 Of folly of this shall give account;
 And every liar shall his portion have
 Among the cursed, without the gates of life.

Doctrine and Duty.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN OBSERVER.]

Pray for Unconverted Relatives.

This duty will commend itself to every Christian, whose heart is right with God; for independently of written law, or injunction on the subject; the soul that enjoys the love of God, will be made to love his fellow creatures, and to seek their welfare. This is one of the first fruits of renewing grace, as the experience of the people of God uniformly testifies. The moment, that a soul is brought out of darkness into light, it feels itself

glowing with gratitude and love to God, for the great love wherewith God has loved it; its language is "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" "Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee?" The pure feeling of the renewed heart is, one of benevolence and goodwill toward men; the possessor of such a heart desires the present and eternal welfare of all around him, and is ready to do, and to suffer, anything, that their welfare may be secured. The current of this feeling is wide, including friends and enemies, and it cannot be bound by the limits of party connexions, it includes all. This is the natural consequence of being a partaker of the nature of Him, whose tender mercies are over all his works.

But while the love of the genuine convert is so extensive in its range, it cannot but be especially exercised towards friends and kindred according to the flesh. In their welfare he feels a deep and peculiar interest; and for their welfare he is led to labour and to pray without ceasing. Neither does he pray in vain; many, before they have been made partakers of the grace of God themselves, have been led to acknowledge the advantage of pious relatives; and to say, as Laban said to Jacob, "I have learned by experience that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake." One proof of the truth of this statement will be found in the following story:—

In the year 1833, the writer was domiciled on the banks of the Tyne in England, near the town of Newcastle. Shortly after coming into this neighbourhood, he attended the annual public meeting of the Newcastle Town Missionary Society, when several interesting speeches were made to a large and attentive assembly. One of the speakers, on this occasion, was a fine looking man, of clerical appearance, and engaging address, whose speech the writer could never forget. He was a minister in the Baptist church, and employed as a Home Missionary on the Southern side of the Tyne, in the county of Durham; in speaking of the points of his labour, he gave us the following story:—

The wife of a friend, or labouring man upon a farm, became the subject of Religious influence. Convinced of her depravity and sinfulness, she was led to ask, what must I do to be saved? Upon being directed to the Saviour of sinners, she sought for mercy with all her heart, and in time found "peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ." Brought thus into the enjoyment of the Divine power, she felt anxious for the salvation of her husband; she could not rest unless he became a partaker of the like precious faith. But in thinking on this subject, she felt her mind perplexed respecting the Divine decrees; she had

not fully learned that these are not the rules of duty with us.

She was fearful of doing wrong, in praying for her husband, as she supposed must be the case, if he was not one of God's chosen people; at the same time she could not bear the thought of leaving him alone to perish without making an effort to save him. In this state of feeling, she resolved to make the salvation of her husband, the subject of her daily prayers, for the space of one year; and if, in this time, she saw no change in him, she must conclude that there was no hope concerning him; but that he was excluded from "the covenants of promise." She carried her resolution into effect. Time rolled on, and the end of the year came, finding her husband apparently as indifferent about Divine things as before. Her mind was distressed, and her heart almost broken. But still the dreadful thought, of the husband of her youth, being separated from her for ever, and consigned to the blackness of despair, was more than she could bear; and she resolved to continue to pray without ceasing for his conversion for six months longer; and if God should not grant her desire in this period, she must relinquish all hope, and despair of his salvation. Time still rolled on; month after month, passed away; and she seemed no nearer the attainment of the object of her hopes and prayers. The last day of the allotted six months had arrived; and hope was ready to forsake her bosom for ever. That morning he rose as usual, and, after an early breakfast, left home to attend to the duties and labours of the day; while his affectionate, faithful wife was left at home to attend to her domestic concerns. The state of her mind may be more easily conceived than expressed; fluctuating alternately on the borders of despair and hope, she prepared his dinner, and waited his return at noon. He did return; but instead of sitting down to his dinner, he passed through the kitchen into a little room, kept as a parlour, and remained there until the hour for rest and refreshment had passed away. He then, without speaking, returned to his labour. Such conduct could not but surprise his anxious wife. The heavy hours of the afternoon passed away, and she prepared his evening meal against the time that he should conclude the work of the day. He came at the usual time; but instead of sitting down to his supper, he again passed into the little parlour, and shut himself up in silence. After waiting some time, the agonizing state of his wife's feelings could no longer be suppressed. She intruded upon his solitude, affectionately but earnestly asking and entreating the reason of his unusual conduct. Was he unwell? grieved? offended? or any other reason? Her affectionate solicitude