

BUDS AND BLOSSOMS,

AND

Friendly Greetings.

"Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the world with fruit."

Vol. VIII.—No. 9.

SEPTEMBER, 1884.

{ WHOLE No. 30.

Short Sermons Without Texts.



E should endeavor to forget injuries, and bury them in love. There will a time come, perchance, when, gazing on the beloved one, we shall find it very easy to forget any hasty word, and if our hearts are full of bitterness it will be with the thought that we have been so unforgetting.

A bitter word may make a wound that will never heal. A kind word may win a friend that will never turn. A caution may save a soul, and yet silence is sometimes more stinging, and at other times more soothing, than any word.

John Wesley said once: "Beware how you invite rich men into your churches until you are sure they are christian. Beware how you manage your churches in such a way that rich men will become a necessity to you. If your church buildings are so luxurious that you need an enormous income, wealthy men will be necessary to you, and they will rule you, and then you must soon bid farewell to Methodist discipline, and, perhaps, to Methodist doctrine." A wiser thing was never said. On the floor of God's house he is the tallest who is nearest to God.

THE CROSS.

Blest they who seek,
While in their youth,
With spirit meek,
The way of truth.

To them the sacred Scriptures now display
Christ as the only true and living Way;
His precious blood on Calvary was given
To make them heirs of endless bliss in heav'n.
And e'en on earth the child of God can trace
The glorious blessings of his Saviour's grace

For them He bore
His Father's frown;
For them He wore
The thorny crown;
Nailed to the cross,
Endured its pain,
That His life's loss
Might be their gain.
Then haste to choose
That better part,
Nor e'er dare refuse
The Lord thy heart,
Lest He declare:
"I know you not,"
And deep despair
Should be your lot.

ARE YOU SAVED?

WHY NOT?

No; look to Jesus, Who on Calvary died,
And trust in Him Who there was crucified.

The Regions Beyond, Mission Notes.



ADAGASCAR rum and religion. The Rev. A. G. Shaw, writing to the *Pall Mall Gazette* of missionary work in Madagascar says: "But what can the missionary do against this powerful agent for evil introduced in European vessels by professedly Christian men, to the complete destruction of all morality among these ignorant natives? Not only are the people being ruined in body and soul, not only are they becoming so debauched that they cultivate barely sufficient rice to supply their most pressing wants, but they fail utterly to supply that most pressing demand of the foreign merchant and planter, the labor market. So long as over ten thousand barrels of rum, each containing between forty and fifty gallons, are imported in one year to the east coast of Madagascar at so cheap a rate as to be retailed at sixpence a quart, it is in vain for the planter to look for labor, constant, regular, trust-worthy, among those people. And this is the lowest view of the matter. There is a higher and graver responsibility resting upon the British nation, who with one hand send the Bible and missionaries to teach these people, and with the other pour into the country that which washes out at one sweep both the moral and religious life of the natives and conducts them to an early and certain grave. It is to the disgrace of those speaking the English tongue that it was their voice which was uplifted to prevent the native government from imposing a higher duty upon this importation, and so restricting in some measure the evil effects upon their people."

In the matter of missionary statistics in Africa, there has been comparatively little change in the last two years, since every one of the African mission fields has been more or less disturbed. Wars in South Africa, French intrigues on the West Coast, the revolts of Arabi Pasha and El Mahdi in Egypt and Soudan, and all interposed between Egypt and Abyssinia, have not interfered with missionary work. Across the sea in Madagascar, it has been much the same. War with the French, the death of the Queen, and the futile efforts of the Hova Government to secure the sympathy and help of Protestant Europe and America, have all tended to retard the advance of missionary work among the unevangelized aborigines. It is cheering, however, to find that not only the Government, but the people of Madagascar, are, if possible, stronger, than ever in their adherence to the Christian faith. The last words and acts of the departed Queen afforded a beautiful illustration of