

UNCLE SAM.

Uncle. What are you bringing me, my children?

Children. A beautiful nosegay, uncle : the flowers are all fresh, and they look so pretty, and smell so sweet.

U. Thank you for them. They are beautiful indeed. I will have them put in fresh water, and they will do for me to admire for several days.

C. Uncle, there is one question we should like to ask. The flowers are very pretty, and some of them smell very sweet ; but are they of any particular use ?

U. Well, my dears, that is not a very easy question. It may be answered more ways than one.

C. Tell us how, uncle.

U. The Bible teaches us that we may learn some useful lessons from them. Here is the Testament. Tell me what you find in Matthew, sixth chapter, and 28th and 29th verses.

C. " And why take ye thought for raiment ? consider the lilies of the field, how they grow ; they toil not, neither do they spin. And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

U. Look at the flowers. Think of the beauty and variety of their colours and of their forms. Talk of royal robes. What robe has beauty like that of flowers ? And this is not by chance. Each flower is what it is by the will of God, planning and designing it beforehand, and then executing it according to his plan. Everything about the plant is arranged to make the flower what it is.

C. Well, uncle, and what lesson does this teach us ?

U. Our Lord tells you in the next verse. If God, in his providence, takes such care of these fading and inanimate flowers, shall he not take care of man, whom he created in his own image, who has a soul capable of knowing and loving God, and which shall live for ever ? God *does* take care of the flowers of the field and the garden, or else they would not be what they are. But if he takes thought for flowers, shall he neglect man, especially if man be obedient to his will ?

C. Thank you for this lesson. What is the next ?

U. Turn to the First Epistle of Peter, first chapter, 24th and 25th verses.

C. " For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass."

U. There, my children, stop a little. See that you have got hold of the exact thought which these words are intended to present.—There are many kinds of flowers you know, but you may now think of some field-flowers, very common, but not less beautiful for being so. Have you never seen a field with the green grass, and yet a great number of flowers like so many ornaments ?