

# BUDS AND BLOSSOMS,

AND

Friendly Greetings.


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

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## A Caution to the Unsaved.



UNCONVERTED reader, I appeal to you. As I write, my soul is filled with trembling for those who sport upon the brink of unutterable woe. How shall you escape if you neglect your soul's salvation? If you are unsaved to-day, your neglect is either wilful or unintentional. If wilful you are verily guilty. If unintentional, you are no less guilty, for you have been warned, entreated and pleaded with, to flee from coming wrath.

Come to Jesus just now. For many are *lost* within sight of safety! *Lost*, not fearing danger: *Lost*, when all seemed secure!

How many are so lost, and lost eternally! How many who have had praying mothers and Christian friends, faithful ministers and Sunday-school teachers, have gone down to ruin! If you dare to take another step without him, live another hour unsaved, sleep another night the slave of Satan, you do so at your peril. Friend, do not hazard your eternal safety for a darling lust, a right-eye sin, a misnamed pleasure. Now is the accepted time. Now, just now.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Look, then, to Jesus Christ *now*. Trust him *to-day*. Dear readers, it will not suffice merely to know about Christ; you must trust him as your loving Saviour, if you would be saved and enter the portals of glory. His Spirit will then teach you, and his blood cleanse you "from all sin."

Oh, come to him without delay; for in him alone can you be safe. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

It is plain that if we would serve our age as true Christians, we must be converted—converted to a life of closer communion with Christ, and made to feel that whatever interrupts that communion interrupts our missionary power. Augustine once said, "O Lord, convert me, convert me, but not now!" Reverently, humbly, earnestly, we would say—Now! This we would say for ourselves, and for all the churches, and would have ever on our hearts, words once written by Ward, of Serampore—"The conversion of the church must precede the conversion of the world." There is no infallible test by which we can distinguish true conversion from the counterfeit. Yet there are six things to be found in every true convert—life, light, love, liberty, loathing of sin, and loyalty to Christ. Of these the first five might be counterfeited, but the last would manifest itself so that it could not well be imitated.

## Hints and Helps for Workers; or Thoughts and Gatherings from the Study.

The history of every discovery, of every enterprise of benevolence, of every reform, is the history of toil and watching through long discouragements.

As the light goes out with the exhaustion of the oil, so the fortune fails with the cessation of human endeavour.

It is a blessed thing to have to work. Work keeps us out of foolish and hurtful desires, which destroy so many.

Every step of true progress brings new courage and skill for the warfare, a better access to God in prayer, a prompter victory over temptation, a more steady peace, and a richer joy.

God's people should always let the world see that they are peaceable people, we may justly question the religion of those who are enemies to peace.

—Why transplant a man out of the world into the church, if he carries the old soil with him and yields the same old fruit?

"It is of very little account what men think of us, but it is of great importance what God thinks of us."

When Christians get in earnest, we may be sure they can surprise and amaze the world now as well as in the days of Pentecost. They only need to work together, and they can break down any giant evil like intemperance or bribery in politics.

## Our Ribbon of Blue.

Our last Ribbon of Blue Temperance meeting was a very profitable one. We saw a notice of it in the Montreal Witness, from which we borrow the following:

Is there any thorough and lasting cure for intemperance except a new heart? Is there any physician of equal skill with the Lord of Glory? What is the use of preaching temperance without Christ? Which is the strongest support to lean upon, the Reform Club, the Temperance Pledge, or the Hope set before us in the Gospel? Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which satisfieth not? Here is an invitation from Jesus which seems to have a peculiar application to the inebriate: "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink. Whosoever shall drink of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst."

An admirable card motto, to be illuminated and hung in sight of all the ten thousand licensed and unlicensed rum-sellers in the city of New York, and