



THE BROOK IN THE WAY.

**T**HE way is long, and the weary feet drag themselves slowly onward beneath the glowing heat of a scorching sun. Still there is no sign of the journey's end, and the traveller is nigh to fainting.

Lo! at a turn of the road he hears the murmuring sound of a brook! Surely that silver gleam, those tufted palms rising and standing sculptured against the sky can have only one meaning. Water, oh! thought of gladness; water, oh! pearl of pure delight; what music in its very name, when the pilgrim is perishing with thirst, choked with dust and reduced almost to despair! This is indeed no mirage, but the ever-springing water of life.

The Psalmist says that "He shall drink of the brook in the way, therefore shall he lift up the head."

What a picture for you and me, and how true to our every-day needs! What a blessing that, if in the way, be it ever so hard and we ever so worn and exhausted, God can lead us to a rill or a river of refreshing, as it shall please Him. What force in the little link "therefore." Because we have drunk of the stream, heaven sent in our necessity, we shall go on, not bowing and bent, but lifting the head! Invigorated, renovated, recreated, and heartened for our work, since on God's errand and in God's way we have tasted the cooling draught supplied us by His grace.

Let us thank God that we never need journey in spiritual dearth and dryness, if only we seek His help in the methods of His appointment, if only we are willing to drink of "the brook in the way."

THE CURE OF AN EVIL TONGUE.

**I**T must begin at the heart; otherwise it will be but a mountebank cure, a false imagined conquest. The weights and wheels are there, and the clock strikes according to their motion. A guileful heart makes a guileful tongue and lips. It is the workhouse where is the forge of deceit, and slanders, and other evil-speakings; the tongue is only the outer shop where they are vended, and the lips the door of it. So, then, such ware as is made within, such and no other can be set out. From evil thoughts, evil speaking, from a profane heart, profane speaking, from a malicious heart, bitter and calumnious words, and from a deceitful heart, guileful words, well varnished, but lined with rottenness. And so in the general, "from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," as the Saviour teaches.

That which the heart is full of runs over by the tongue. If the heart be full of God, the tongue will delight to speak of Him; much of heavenly things within will surely breathe forth something of their smell by the mouth; and if nothing but earth is there, all a man's discourse will have an earthy smell; and if nothing but wind, vanity, and folly, the speech will be airy, and vain, and purposeless. "The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom; the law of God is in his heart." "The tongue of the righteous is as fine silver; but the heart of the wicked is little worth." It makes the antithesis in the root; his heart is little worth, and therefore his tongue has no silver in it. He may be worth thousands, as we speak, that is, indeed, in his chests or lands; and yet himself, his heart, and all his thoughts of it, are not worth a penny.

Archbishop Leighton.

GOLD DUST.

—The best truths are often perverted to the worst purposes.

—Be not discouraged by past failures in duty; but confess to God, beg His interference, and try again: "The way of the Lord is strength to the upright."

—Never take your eye off the cross when you think of salvation; all its lines centre there.

—Expect the Spirit when you have prayed for His assistance.

—Be sure Satan will oppose you, if what you are doing is for God's glory.

—Examine your aim in all you undertake.

—Peace of mind is produced by reliance on God's promises.

—Contentment springs from humility.

—Love is the greatest ornament a believer can wear.

—Forgiveness is a godlike grace; resentment is diabolical.

—Look for the hand of God where the eye of reason can only see the hand of man.

—If God has done it, it is both your duty and privilege to submit and acquiesce.

—In all you suffer, Jesus sympathises with you.

—Nothing takes place by chance; there is a design worthy of a God in every operation or permission.