

Buds and Blossoms

AND

Friendly Greetings.

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

Vol. X.—No. 8.

AUGUST, 1886.

{ WHOLE No. 116.



Sir Stafford Northcote.

Hints to Do-Nothings.



STRANGE, Jesus the Master had to complain, 'the harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few.' The children of this world are wise in their generation. See how they haste and toil to gain the good things of Mammon, and willingly sacrifice to-day for to-morrow's uncertainties. In the battle for place, precedence and honor, no risk or cost is too great. Weary months of care and toil are freely given, with a readiness worthy of a better cause, to obtain the approbation, and good will of men. Shall we whose souls are lighted by wisdom from on high, and who have a truer estimate of life's present worth and purpose, be laggards in the race? Can we stand idly in the world's market place, and say no man hath hired us? Has not our Redeemer the Holy-one of Israel, bought us with a priceless price, even His own precious blood? Has he not said, "Son, go work to day in my vineyard?" If needs he should we not dare to do? "Occupy till I come," hold fast against bribes and all comers. Let us David-like, when the enemy comes as a lion and bear to rob our charge, prove ourselves no hirelings, but true to our trust, worthy of the service assigned. Our Father in heaven will know those who do His will, willingly,

even though the service rendered seemed to others imperfect and small. The power of littles will never be fully realized here, but in the glad unfoldings of eternity we shall learn Jesus took knowledge of us; that no service rendered heartily as unto the Lord was in vain. First, pray the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers, and before saying amen, say, Lord, what wouldst thou have me to do? Thy will, not my will be done. It was not doing some great thing which brought proud Naaman the deliverance sought. Truly we must stoop to conquer. Every true child of God does not work for salvation. Salvation is of the Lord. It is Christ's prerogative to save men from their sins. Jesus only can do helpless sinners good. Dead men cannot live, save as they live by the faith and life which come of Jesus, who purchased our pardon, and of his own love offers salvation without money and without price. Willing our stubborn wills unto willingness to will and to do according to the pleasure of Him who so loved us, let us see to it then that we as the saved of the Lord, work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Grace, saving grace, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. The test of love is, "If ye love Me keep my commandments." And the more we love Him, the clearer will be our view of His love to us, and of our work and duty. Hence, our Lord said: "He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me; and he that loveth Me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself unto him"

It has been said kind words cost but little. Kind words can never die. Basil, on the subject of rewards of goodness says, "A good deed is never lost, he who sows courtesy, reaps friendship; and he who plants kindness, gathers love; pleasure bestowed upon a grateful mind as never sterile, but generally gratitude begets reward." Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter, feelings lie buried, which will vibrate and respond to kind words.

A lady who understood this accidentally pushed a little street Arab off the sidewalk. She stopped and apologized, saying that she hoped she had not hurt him. He stepped back, and gave his rimless hat a jerk, "My eyes, Jim!" he exclaimed, turning to a boy who had heard the whole. "If she don't speak to me jest like I wore standin' collars! A feller could 'ford to get pushed off forty times a day to get spoke to like that." The speech of every christian should betray the spirit of Him who spake with wisdom and as never man spake, and of whom it is written, His acts and words of love proved Him verily to be the Son of God, the Lamb that taketh away the sins of the world. To be a do-nothing is an evidence that the truth is not in us.