

Hasty Friendships.

Hasty friendships, void of judgment,
Reason, light, or rule;
Prematurely nursed and heated,
Quickly will they cool!
As we test the ruder metals,
Choose this wiser plan,
On the anvil of endurance
Test and try the man.

Not when "gentlemen of England
Live at home in ease,"
Where no adverse thing soever
Weighs upon the breeze;
When in health, and strength, and for-
Patrimony and power; [tune,
This is not the *time* of trial,
Such is not the hour.

Not when odds are all made even,
And we proudly stand
With a goodly balance garnered
In our banker's hand;
When the close of every venture
Rains a golden shower,
Sound not *then* the trusty plummet,
Such is not the hour.

Sound the plummet, test the metal,
Make the value known,
When the curtain'd hope is starless,
When the sun's gone down:
Prove we *then* the friend and brother
Whom we saw before;
Make the bond of friendship sacred,
Loose it nevermore!

Sound discretion of the Present
Makes a joyful morrow;
Sow not friendship's seeds in haste
Lest ye reap in sorrow!
As we test the ruder metals
This be aye the plan—
On the anvil of *endurance*
Let us test the man.

London Cabs and their Drivers.

BY W. BAIRD, M.A.,

S. GABRIEL'S MISSION, BROMLEY; CHAPLAIN TO EARL BEAUCHAMP.

IF those who lived in London in a past generation could revisit it, probably nothing would astonish them more than the rapidity and ease with which their descendants pass from one part of it to another. Sometimes (thanks to the Metropolitan Railway!) we burrow underground in one quarter of our great city, and after a journey of a few minutes emerge to the light in another; or, by aid of some huge and costly viaduct, we shoot across throughed thoroughfares, and look down in dignified contempt on the liliputians beneath us. These new methods of progress would not a little startle our ancestors out of their propriety. Even in those methods, which were in some measure known to them, they would see such changes and improvements, that they would hardly recognize their old friends. The smart Hansom, threading its way so easily through the crowds of carts and waggons, bears but a slight resemblance to the heavy rumbling chaise in which our forefathers used to ride. Notwithstanding the multiplicity of other conveyances, the cab must always hold its position in our streets. An omnibus is not always a convenient or pleasant mode of travelling. If you get inside, the chances are in favour of your getting out again with a head-ache; if, on the other hand, you scale the perilous