

But when the blight has touched the flower
 Before its sweetest bloom,
 Or shadows covered o'er the sun
 Before the golden noon,

Then it is hard to bow the head,
 And say "Thy will be done ;"
 Comfort the weeping parents, Lord,
 He was their first-born son.

Lift up for them the earthly veil,
 That hides the heavenly love ;
 Into their wounded, bleeding hearts,
 Rain manna from above.

And bid them think that calm sweet peace,
 That crowned his sleeping brow,
 When resting from the pangs of death,
 Is his forever now !

'Tis not far off, that happy home,
 Where they shall meet their boy,
 The vale of death lies just before,
 The land of living joy.

Nor when, nor how, it matters not,
 If they have reached that shore ;
 They are not lost, the friends we loved,
 But only gone before.

KATE PULLAR.

Hamilton, 13th December, 1869.

Gleanings.

A shrewd old gentleman once said to his daughter : " Be sure, my dear, you never marry a poor man, but remember that the poorest man in the world is one that has money—nothing else."

The late Dr. Bethune wrote to his Consistory these ever memorable words : " We can never despair of a church that puts the cause of mercy first, and itself second." Again he says : " I would as soon try to cultivate a farm without rain, as a church without benevolence," and, " I hate to be economical with the Bread of Life." Possessed of such views and spirit, it is not strange that all the churches he served became distinguished for systematic and increasing liberality. And it may be added with propriety, that he impressed his own spirit of large-heartedness upon the church of Christ.

GOD'S PURPOSES SURE.—The wheels in a watch or clock move contrary one to another—some one way, some another—yet all serve the intent of the workman, to show the time, or to make the clock to strike. So in the world, the providence of God may seem to run cross to his promises : one man takes this way, another man runs that way ; good men go one way, wicked men another ; yet all, in conclusion, accomplish the will, and centre in the purposes of God, the great Creator of all things.—Sibbs.