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WILLIAM BHIGGS Toronto, Ont.

#### April.

Then welcome April fair, Bright harbinger of May, Month of blue skies, and perfumed air, The young year's holiday.

It's brown and mossy buds Greet the first breath of spring, And to her shrine, its clustered flowers Their earliest offering bring.

-Unknown

#### His Favorite Flower.

A minister of the Hamilton Conference was addressing a Sunday-school on the subject of flowers, and among other ques-tions asked the boys and girls what was their favorite kind of flower

their favorite kind of flower?
The youngsters seemed a little timid about answering at first, but after a moment or two a boy held up his hand.
"That's right, my lad," said the speaker, "speak up loud, and tell us what kind of flower you like best."
"Cauliflower," shouted the boy.

#### Taking Things for Granted.

The late Dean Hoffman was once called upon to speak at a gathering in the in-terest of a cause to which he had given much of both time and money. He took the rostrum reluctantly, and began apologetically as follows: "I am not much of a speaker, friends." "Amen!" came heartily from a good Methodist not far from the speaker. Dean Hoffman looked disconcerted, but manfully tried to proceed: "I shall detain you but a mofriends." " Hallelujah !" from the same Methodist. The Dean proceeded to make a few remarks with a very red face. He laughed most heartily, however, when it was afterwards ex-plained to him that the exclamations of plained to limit that come from a deaf brother, who, able to recognize nothing but the pause in the Deans' speech, had expressed his approval on faith, rather than on hearing.

#### Taking Off His Hat to Nature.

Hamilton W. Mable repeats a story which shows how one man, at least, was affected by the beauty of nature:—

One day in the early spring a Scotchman was walking along the side of a mountain in Skye, when he came to a hut in which lived an old man he had known a great many years. He saw the old man with his head bowed, and his bonnet in his hand. He came up and said to him after a bit: "I did not speak to you, Sandy, because I thought you might be at your

because I thousand because the depreyers." Well, not exactly that," said the old man, "but I will tell you what I was doing. Every morning for forty years I have taken off my bonnet here to the beauty of the world."

Beauty, wherever it is seen, is a re-flection of God's face, the shining of the heavenly light down upon the earth. Wherever we come upon it, it should touch our hearts with a spirit of reverence. God is near; we are standing in the light of his countenance.

#### An Attractive Excursion.

A splendid opportunity to visit California, at small cost, is afforded by the excursion in connection with the General Conference of the M. E. Church, which meets in Los Angeles in May. The re-turn ticket will be \$50 from Chicago, which is a very low rate. It is expected that single fare will be charged from Canadian points to Chicago. Write to Mr. F. T. Hendry, 151 Griswold Street, Detroit, for illustrated folder giving full directions

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