

digging up with a sort of pickaxe, the clumps of shrubs and coarse grass which grow in the thin soil spread over the rocks. He was collecting them to carry home, in order to burn them as fuel. I had seen heaps of the same material piled up near the lime-kilns in the vicinity of Urtas; and I frequently saw troops of donkeys returning from the fields loaded with bundles of such fuel. The scarcity of wood in Palestine is very great, especially in the southern part; so that the people are obliged to resort to the use of almost everything that is capable of being burnt, in order to procure the means of warming their houses in winter, and of preparing their daily food. They not only cut down, for this purpose, the shrubs and larger kinds of grass, but gather the common withered grass itself, and the wild flowers, of which the fields display so rich a profusion.

It is from this source that the Saviour derives the beautiful illustration, which he employs for the purpose of repressing an undue solicitude on the part of His followers respecting the wants of the present life: "Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you that even Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"—(Matthew vi. 28-30.)—*Hackett.*

SIGN OF SUMMER.

On my first arrival in the southern part of Syria, near the end of March, most of the fruit-trees were clothed with foliage, and in blossom. The fig-tree, on the contrary, was much behind them in this respect; for the leaves of this tree do not make their appearance till comparatively late in the season. On this circumstance appears to be founded Christ's saying: "When its branch is already tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know the summer is nigh"—(Matthew xxiv. 32). As the spring is so far advanced before the leaves of the fig tree begin to appear (the early fruit, indeed, comes first), a person may be sure, when he beholds this sign, that summer is at hand.—*Hackett.*

GOD'S TWO THRONES.

One is in the highest heaven of glory, the other is in the lowest hearts on earth. See Isaiah lvii. 15.