

PALESTINE LILIES.

BY EDITH V. BRADT.

Red Lilies grow very thickly in Palestine, and in our Savior's time they were so profuse as to be used for fuel. This is what is meant by the verse, "If God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" In the East the lily is a spring flower and travellers speak of its beauty and fragrance. This is the lily that is referred to in the verse, "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys."

"CONSIDER THE LILIES."

It was only an earthen vessel,
By a weary worker's loom,
But a bunch of snowy lilies,
With their delicate perfume,
Concealed its imperfections,
And glorified the room.

They filled the air with fragrance,
And brightened the room with grace;
They smiled on the weary toilers,
And lightened each care-worn face,
'Till it seemed that a benediction
Was resting on the place.

And the humble earthen vessel,
That had seemed of no use before,
'Neath its freight of snowy lilies,
A glorified image wore:
It was reckoned a part of the blessing;
'A share in the honour bore.

Our lives are but earthen vessels,
In the busy haunts of care,
But in patient burden-bearing,
We may make them wondrous fair,
And our deeds of loving service
Are the lilies that we bear.

SOMETHING NEW IN BIBLE READING.

I WONDER if the readers of the PALM BRANCH have ever seen the real beauties of the 5th chapter of the Revelations? That Book has so many obscurities in it, that we are very apt to pass it by too lightly, and thus fail to get the beautiful lessons it yields to those who really search for them.

I was once spending a few weeks at Niagara Falls, at Wesley Park, where several quiet, religious people had summer cottages, and a convention for the promotion of holiness was being held.

While there I heard a Bible reading given by a young lady on the chapter mentioned which I shall never forget. I wish to give you just a short extract, very much abridged, trusting our readers may gain a little of the instruction I found from it myself.

The first part of the chapter, tells of a book in the hands of one who sat upon a throne. It was a sealed book and no one was found able to unloose it. The writer who beheld the vision wept much that no one could be found who was able to open the book. At length appeared One who was called the lion of the tribe

of Judah. He only was able to open this wonderful book and unloose the seals thereof.

Now a lion is a fearfully fierce animal, one to be dreaded lest we come too near him, for well we know his strength and power; but on looking closely the writer beheld, and lo, this terrible lion became a lamb. The very reverse of a lion, and not only a lamb, but the Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth for the salvation of the whole world. So, dear readers, this priceless Book, our Bible, is a sealed book to all who do not know our Lord Jesus Christ. Only the Lamb of God can open the eyes of our understanding by His Holy Spirit and reveal to us all the truth that is necessary for our salvation. How many in looking in our Bible see only the Lion, instead of the meek and lowly Jesus. He is God manifest in the flesh, seeking to reconcile this wicked world to Himself, instead of Himself to the world. He condescends to ask our love. Can we refuse Him? We must accept Him ere we can expect to understand His blessed Word. Then if we seek we shall find it a mine of richness and delight which, the more we dig into it, the more it will yield us.

The latter part of the chapter tells us of three wonderful songs. The first was the song of the redeemed, in which we may all join; the second, the song of the angels who had never sinned; the third, the song of the whole creation. Only they who have availed themselves of the benefits of our great redemption can sing the first song, viz: "To Him who hath redeemed us to God by His blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation, and has made us to our God, kings and priests, and we shall reign upon the earth." Well may Doxologies arise from every heart of every child of man. None are too vile but may come by repentance and faith and join in the exultant song.

The second song is by the angels, who by thousands and tens of thousands surround the Throne of God. But there is no word of redemption in their song. They sing, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honour and glory, and blessing," for they always have been beholding the wonderful attributes of our Saviour and Redeemer.

The third song must issue from every creation. Yes, even those who are lost forever must join in this, whether they will or no, for God hath sworn in several places in His Word that a time should come when every knee should bow and every tongue confess that He is the Lord. Even they must attribute to the Lamb forever and forever, blessing and honour and glory and power.

Most earnestly we pray that each one whose eye may rest on these pages may share in the first song of the wonderful redemption wrought out for us through the precious blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Montreal.

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