

Godliness is profitable unto all things.

I Timothy iv. 8.

TWO TREES.

EVA TRAVERS EVERED POOLE.



HAVE you ever heard of the curious tree known as the Judas-tree? Long before the leaves appear upon the branches, the gorgeous blossoms ornament them, and they look like

scarlet sun-gleams caught amongst the boughs, and held prisoners by their interlacings. The brilliant beauty of the crimson flowers attract thousands of tiny insects, and the wild bees seek to draw honey from their exquisitely shaped cups. But every insect, bee or butterfly, that ventures to rest upon the edge of its blossom is overcome by a fatal, curious sort of opiate, or sleeping draught, which the flower-juice contains, and drops dead upon the ground! If you were to walk round the tree with me, you would see the soft grass strewn with dead and dying bright winged insects! The Judas-tree reminds you and me of sin. Sin may look bright, pleasant, and attractive to our eyes; we may think it "no harm" to indulge in it. But lurking behind "the pleasure of sin" is a fatal poison. Even a dear little child may be led to taste the deadliness of sin, and be slain by it! All round the Judas-tree of sin we see the dead and dying souls of men.

What is to be done for them? Ah!

there is only one remedy. Come with me up a steep, bleak hill, and when we have climbed it and stand upon its summit, we see another tree. How strange it looks! No leaves, no blossoms; only the bare, rough boughs on which a dying one hangs, with bowed head and outstretched arms. What tree is this? It is the Tree of Calvary. The soft green grass around is stained with blood; the summer breeze sings softly as it kisses that royal Sufferer's thorn-crowned brow. O Jesus! it is Thou! We know Thee. Why art thou hanging on the tree?

And I think I hear Him say, dear children, "All this I did for thee."

Yes, Jesus died for you and me. The "leaves of the tree of life" that grow upon Calvary can bring to life again the poor, dead souls that have lost their life through the poison of sin. Jesus is sin's remedy.

Next time that you wander through the woods, or in the garden, and gather the sweet, shy violets, or pale peeping primroses from their hiding places under the gnarled roots of the great forest trees, think of what I have told you. Think of the "two trees," of sin and Calvary, and remember that the poisonous scarlet blossoms of sin are only made harmless by the crimson blood that fell like dew from Jesus upon Calvary's tree.

It takes crimson blood to wash out scarlet sins. And when the sins are blotted out, live bright lives of loving thankfulness for the dear Lord Jesus.

—*The Christian.*

A CHINAMAN applied to a minister to be allowed to join his church. The minister asked him some questions to find out whether he understood what it is to be a Christian, and how we are to be saved. Among other things, he asked him, "How did you find Jesus?" In his broken English the poor man replied, "Me no find Jesus at all, Jesus him find me."

Hold Thou me up, and I shall be safe.

Psalm cxix. 117.