

# BUDS AND BLOSSOMS,

AND

Friendly Greetings.

"Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the world with fruit."

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## Thoughts After Vacation.

**T**HE summer months are not generally the time when we can best discern spiritual progress and increase. In city life it is a time of going to and fro, and who can tell the amount of good done, if when the travelling valise is packed some good seed is placed therein to be dropped by the way. The writer believes once a Christian, *always, and everywhere a Christian*. We can bathe our weary feet in the rippling brooklet that winds its way by the old farm-house, carrying in its course some of the mountain freshness and coolness. Or if nature and circumstances favor, we can allow the cool and invigorating splash and dash of the briny ocean to play upon us, and from the brightness and freshness of the one, and the fullness and beauty of the other find inspiration for a psalm of praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord God, who is the maker and creator of all things. Vacation time to the Christian, whilst a time for unbending and relaxation should never be a time of laxness in spiritual duties. We are known by our fruits, men take knowledge of us, the thought that the eyes of the Lord are in every place, should inspire us at all times with a filial inspiration to do good unto all, and in every thing to give thanks, that others seeing our good works, may take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him.

Friend what seed didst thou sow during your vacation trip? where did you go? what did you do for Jesus?

Now the past is past, and beyond recall. If we are wise let us plan to redeem the time, for the days are not less evil than the times of the past, we need to watch and pray, lest we enter into temptation. An idle do-nothing Christian is a libel on the name of the Christ, who went about doing good. The King's business is urgent, souls are perishing for lack of knowledge. Knowledge which comes not simply from the word preached, but from religion practised and demonstrated by men and woman, who show that they care for souls, by looking unto Jesus, and crying unto others as they run the race of life and for life. "Come thou with us and we will do thee good, for the Lord hath spoke.. good concerning Israel." To-day, not only thinking men, but the unthinking crowd, demand some new thing in religion to feed and please the fancy. Nevertheless, the old fashion-theology well practised, saint and sinner, old and new fashioned have to confess, practically as far as it concerns holy living and active service in the cause of Christ, is a good thing, and does not appear as effete as some modern idea men proclaim, men who

find it worth their while to stay in sheep's clothing among the sheep, because the good shepherd leads even his rebellious flock in pastures green. Wrestling the scriptures is not a new trade. It started before apostolic times. Satan tried it both with and in the days of Adam the first and second. Satan by his own lying interpretation sought to use Scripture to his own end and purpose. Let us pray, "from all error and false doctrine good Lord deliver us."

Justification by faith is a truth and doctrine older than Luther. The precious blood which cleanseth from all sin, was typified long before the Lamb of God was offered on Calvary. He whose great heart swelled with forgiving love until it burst, and who in death's agonies, crushed with a burden heavier far than the cross, cried, 'Father forgive them they know not what they do.' Taught if men like the sinners at Jerusalem, despise the gathering purpose of him who would gather, as a hen gathereth her brood under her wing; then the accumulating of evil within and without, shall like a flood sweep men away. Now *the door of mercy stands open*. Then the righteous, made so by the cleansing atoning blood of Jesus Christ, shall be safe and the door shall be shut. The awful hopeless condemnation of the ungodly stand out clear and distinct in the written unalterable words. "He that is unjust let him be unjust still, and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still, Rev. 22, 11. *Poor hope of final and future salvation for sinners who reject salvation now, FOR NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION.*

## Ribbon of Blue or Temperance Notes.

**A** Barrel of beer means wasted food.  
**A** Barrel of beer means wasted money.  
**A** Barrel of beer means wasted happiness.

Cannon Farrer saith, the English people spend £130,000,000 in drink and £100,000,000 indirectly as a result of drunkenness.

Our national wine bill—or, in plain language rum bill—amounts to \$800,000,000 a year. The annual amount spent in dry goods and clothing, is \$380,000,000, in schools less than \$100,000,000, in breadstuffs, 450,000,000, in publishing and printing, \$60,000,000 on lawyers and criminals \$90,000,000. On the clergy the poor clergy—the clergy who preach to both saint and to sinner—who are depended on to save our souls --on them we annually spend \$12,000,000. Clergy 12,000,000, national rum bill, 800,000,000! Just think of it!

Already more than \$5,000,000 is reported as given to foreign missions during the last year, with an expected additional \$2,900,000. Of this the Wesleyan Methodist Society raised \$750,000. The noble Bible