

## "OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS."

CLXIV. PSALM, 12 v.

"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner-stones, polished after the similitude of a palace."

Wisdom and folly are not the exclusive heritage of any class of men. Wisdom is a fragrant flower that may be found on any soil duly cultivated; and folly is a rank weed which may absorb the nourishment of the best land when not duly cared for. There have been philosophers in rags, and fools in fine purple. The cottage and the palace alike may be the abode of true wisdom; and no section of the human family, however begirt with conventional privileges, can debar the rest of their kind from enjoying the distinction of a place among the wise.

The history of nations is a perpetual revelation of human character, and it affords many instances both of the folly and the wisdom of royal personages. The leaders of men have often done infinite mischief to the world by the stupid perversity and obstinate blindness of their will; and some, on the other hand, have, by the correctness of their judgment on practical matters, and the righteousness of their administration, won for themselves a foremost place among the chief benefactors of mankind. The highest form of practical sagacity, like all other things, may be resolved into its constituent elements. When we examine into what it is that constitutes the wisdom of kings and princes, it is found that there are two principal factors without which no monarch can be deemed wise,—the one, the goodness of their desires for their subjects; the other, the fitness and propriety of their practical measures for translating their desires into the realities of national life. Tested by a standard so commonly recognized, the Royal Psalmist has certainly acquired for himself a most exalted position among the wise rulers of the earth.