

ties boldly, do your work diligently. In your families, among your kinsmen and friends and neighbours, in the church, in the Sunday school, in the nation, in the world, work while it is called day, for the night cometh in which no man can work. Let us be stedfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; forasmuch as we know that our labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Gleanings.

LONGINGS.

I long for household voices gone,
 For vanished smiles I long;
 But God hath led my dear ones on,
 And He can do no wrong.

I know not what the future hath
 Of marvel or surprise,
 Assured alone that life and death
 His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak
 To bear an untried pain,
 The bruised reed He will not break,
 But strengthen and sustain.

And so, beside the silent sea,
 I wait the muffled oar;
 No harm from Him can come to me
 On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift
 Their fronded palms in air;
 I only know I can not drift
 Beyond His love and care.

And oh, dear Lord, by whom are seen
 Thy creatures as they be,
 Forgive me if too close I lean
 My human heart on Thee!

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Controversy.—A correspondent lately wrote us stating that he thought it would be an improvement to the *Witness* and attract subscribers, if two columns a week were set apart for theological discussions, and two for political discussions. With respect to the former, our columns have always been open to theological discussions, under certain conditions. First, that such communications should be written in a Christian spirit, and without personality and bitterness. Secondly, that we cannot allow the received theology of Methodism to be assailed. It is not fair when a church establishes a journal to promote its faith and interests, that that faith or those interests should be assailed in its columns. Besides, our correspondents have often shown such a touchiness of temper on theological subjects that we have been afraid of letting them come to blows with each other, and had to impose silence as the only means of keeping the peace between man and man. It is a pity it should be so, for temperate discussion, even on theological subjects, is useful sometimes, and if men were not so thin skinned there would be no harm in such discussions. Hardly any two men believe to the same extent or (if we may coin an expression) at the same rate. That is, they have