

## BEHIND AND BEFORE.

BY SARAH GERALDINA STOCK.



HE tender light of home behind,  
Dark heathen gloom before;  
The servants of the Lord go forth  
To many a foreign shore;  
But the true Light that cannot pale  
Streams on them from above,  
A Light Divine, that shall not fail—  
The smile of him they love.

The shelt'ring nest of home behind,  
The battle-field before;  
They gird their heavenly armor on,  
And seek the foreign shore;  
But Christ, their Captain, with them goes;  
He leads them in the way;  
With Him they face the mightiest foes,  
With Him they win the day.

The peaceful joys of home behind,  
Danger and death before;  
Right cheerfully they set their face  
To seek the foreign shore.  
For Christ has called, and His dear word  
Brings bliss whate'er betide;  
'Tis not alone—'tis with their Lord  
They seek the "other side."

A wealth of love and prayer behind,  
Far-reaching hope before;  
The servants of the Lord go forth  
To seek the foreign shore:  
And whereso'er their footsteps move,  
That hope makes sweet the air;  
And all the path is paved with love,  
And canopied with prayer.

Christ in the fondly loved 'behind,'  
Christ in the bright 'before';  
Oh! blest are they who start with Him  
To seek the foreign shore!  
Christ is their fair, unfading Light,  
Christ is their Shield and Sword,  
Christ is their Keeper, day and night,  
And Christ their rich Reward!

## ONLY.



NLY a seed—but it chanced to fall  
In a little cleft of a city wall;  
And taking root grew bravely up,  
Till a tiny blossom crowned its top.

Only a flower—but it chanced that day  
That a burdened heart passed by that way;  
And the message that through the flower was sent  
Brought the weary soul a sweet content.

For it spoke of the lilies so wondrously clad,  
And the tired heart grew strangely glad,  
At the thought of a tender care over all,  
That noted even a sparrow's fall.

Only a thought—but the work it wrought  
Could never by tongue or pen be taught;  
For it ran through a life, like a thread of gold,  
And the life bore fruit an hundred fold.

Only a word—but 'twas spoken in love  
With a whispered prayer to the Lord above,  
And the angels in heaven rejoice once more,  
For a new-born soul "entered in by the door."

A law has been passed in Waldeck, Germany, forbidding the granting of a marriage license to a person addicted to the liquor habit.

## A LAWYER ON THE MORAL LAW.

A sceptical lawyer was recommended by a Christian friend to give all his legal acumen to a study of the Bible. The sceptic did so, beginning with the moral law. "I have been looking," said he some weeks afterwards, "into the *nature of that law*. I have been trying to see whether I can add anything to it or take anything from it, so as to make it better. Sir, I cannot—it is *perfect*."

"The first commandment," he continued, "directs us to make the Creator the object of supreme love and reverence. This is right; if he be our creator, preserver and supreme benefactor, we ought to treat Him, and *no other*, as such.

"The second commandment forbids idolatry—that precept certainly is right. The third, with equal justness, forbids profanity.

"The fourth fixes a time for religious worship. If there be a God, He ought certainly to be worshipped; it is suitable that there should be an outward homage, significant of our inward regard. If God is to be worshipped, it is proper that some *time* should be set apart for that purpose, when all may worship Him harmoniously and without interruption. One day in seven is certainly not too much, and I do not know that it is too little.

"The fifth defines the peculiar duties arising from family relations.

"Injuries to our neighbors are then classified by the moral law. They are divided into offences against life, chastity, property and character; and," said he, "I notice that the greatest offence in each class is strictly forbidden. Thus the greatest injury to life is murder; to chastity, adultery; to property, theft; to character, perjury. Now, the greater offence must include the lesser of the same kind. Murder must include every injury to life; adultery every injury to purity; and so of the rest; and the moral code is closed and perfected by a prohibition forbidding *every improper desire* in regard to our neighbor.

"I have been thinking," he proceeded, "*where Moses got that law*. I have read history. The Egyptians and the adjacent nations were idolators; so were the Greeks and Romans; and the wisest and the best of Greeks or Romans never gave a code of morals like this. Where did Moses get this law, which surpassed the wisdom and philosophy of the most enlightened ages? He lived at a period comparatively barbarous. Yet he has given a law in which the learning and sagacity of all subsequent times can detect no flaw. Where did he get it? He could not have soared so far above his age as to have devised it himself. I am satisfied where he obtained it; *it must have come from Heaven*. I am convinced of the truth of the religion of the Bible.

Eighty years ago society in Turkey forbade women to learn to read. The Sultan has now started schools for women. See what Christianity is doing.