

# Christian Mirror.

NEW SERIES.

WEEKLY.]

"MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO, AND KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED."—DANIEL, III. 4.

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## POETRY.

### JUVENILE MISSIONARY HYMN.

Lord ! while the little heathens bend,  
And call some wooden god their friend ;  
Or stand and see, with bitter cries,  
Their mothers burnt before their eyes ;

While many a dear and tender child  
Is thrown to bears and tigers wild,  
Or left upon the river's brink,  
To suffer more than heart can think ;

Behold, what mercies we possess !  
How far beyond our thankfulness !  
By happy thousands here we stand,  
To serve thee in a Christian land.

Oh ! when that awful day shall rise,  
When Christ shall come in yonder skies,  
And we must answer, one by one,  
For every deed our hands have done ;

Lord, let it not be said of us,  
That heathens could not have been worse,  
But may we now that pardon crave,  
Which can the guiltiest sinner save.

With all the bright and happy crowd,  
We then would praise thee long and loud ;  
And O ! to little heathens send  
The news of Christ the sinner's friend.

### EPITAPH.

BY THE LATE REV. R. ROBINSON, OF CAMBRIDGE.

BOLD Inidelity, turn pale and die !  
Beneath this stone four infants' ashes lie ;  
Say, are they lost or sav'd ?  
If death 's by sin, they sinn'd : for they ere here ;  
If heaven 's by works, in heaven they can't appear.  
Reason, ah, how deprav'd !  
Reverse the Bible's sacred page ; the knot 's untied :  
They died, for ADAM sinn'd ; they live, for JESU'S  
died.

### GENERAL LITERATURE.

#### THE VALLEY OF TEARS—A VISION :

OR,

#### "BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS."

BY HANNAH MORE.

Once upon a time methought I set out upon a long journey, and the place through which I travelled, appeared to be a dark valley, which was called the Valley of Tears. It had obtained this name, not only on account of the many sorrowful adventures which poor passengers commonly meet with in their journey through it ; but also because most of these travellers entered into it weeping and crying, and left it in very great pain and anguish. This vast valley was full of people of all colors, ages, sizes, and descriptions. —But whether white or black, or tawney, all were travelling the same road ; or rather, they were taking different little paths, which all led to the same common end.

Now it was remarkable, that notwithstanding the different complexions, ages and tempers of this vast variety of people, yet all resembled each other in this one respect, that each had a burthen on his back which he was destined to carry through the toil and heat of the day, until he should arrive, by a longer or shorter course, at

his journey's end. These burthens would, in general, have made the pilgrimage quite intolerable, had not the lord of the valley, out of his great compassion for these poor pilgrims, provided among other things, the following means for their relief :

In their full view, over the entrance of the valley, there were written in letters of gold the following words :—

"BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS."

Now I saw, in my vision, that many of the travellers hurried on without stopping to read this inscription, and others, though they had seen read it, yet paid little or no attention to it. A third sort thought it very good advice for other people, but very seldom applied it to themselves. They uniformly desired to avail themselves of the assistance which by this inscription others were bound to offer them, but seldom considered that the obligation was mutual, and that reciprocal want and reciprocal services formed the strong cord in the bond of charity. In short, I saw that too many of these people were of opinion that they had burthens enough of their own, and there was, therefore, no occasion to take upon them those of others ; so each tried to make his own load as light, and his own journey as pleasant as he could, without so much as once casting a thought on a poor overloaded neighbor. Here, however, I have to make a rather singular remark, by which I shall plainly show the folly of these selfish people. It was so ordered and contrived by the lord of the valley, that if any one stretched out his hand to lighten a neighbour's burthen, in fact he never failed to find that he at that moment also lightened his own. Besides, the benefit of helping each other was mutual, as was the obligation. If a man helped his neighbor it commonly happened that some other neighbor, came by and helped him in his turn ; for there was no such thing as what we called independence in the whole valley. Not one of all these travellers, however stout and strong, could move on comfortably without assistance ; for so the lord of the valley, whose laws were, all of them, kind and good, had expressly ordained.

I stood still to watch the progress of these poor wayfaring people, who moved slowly on, like so many tick-porters, with burthens of various kinds on their backs ; of which some were heavier, and some were lighter, but from a burthen of one kind or other not one traveller was entirely free. There might be some difference in the degree, and some distinction in the nature, but exemption there was none.

#### THE WIDOW.

A sorrowful widow, oppressed with the burthen of grief for the loss of an affectionate husband, moved heavily on ; and would have been bowed down by her heavy load, had not the surviving children, with great alacrity, stepped forward and supported her. Their kindness, after a while, so much lightened the load, which threatened at first to be insupportable, that she even went on her way with cheerfulness, and more than repaid their help, by applying the strength she derived from it to their future assistance.

#### THE HUSBAND.

I next saw a poor old man tottering under a burthen so heavy, that I expected him every moment to sink under it. I peeped into his pack, and saw it was made up of many sad articles ; there was poverty, oppression, sickness, debt ; and, what made by far the heaviest part, undutiful children. I was wondering how it was that he got on even so well as he did, till I spied his wife, a kind, meek, christian woman, who was doing her utmost to assist him. She quietly got behind, gently laid her shoulder to the burthen,

and carried a much larger portion of it than appeared to me, when I was at a distance. It was not the smallest part of the benefit, that she was anxious to conceal it. She not only sustained him by her strength, but cheered him by her counsels. She told him that, "through much tribulation we must enter into rest ;" that "he who overcometh shall inherit all things." In short, she supported his fainting spirit, that he was enabled to "run with patience the race which was set before him."

#### THE KIND NEIGHBOR.

An Indian, blind woman was creeping forward with a very heavy burthen, in which were packed sickness and want, with numberless other of those evil materials, out of which human misery is worked up. She was so weak that she could not have got on at all, had it not been for the kind assistance of another woman almost as poor as herself ; who, though she had no light burthen of her own, cheerfully lent an helping hand to a fellow traveller who was still more heavily laden. This friend had indeed little or nothing to give, but the very voice of kindness is soothing to the weary. And I remarked in many other cases, that it was not so much the degree of the help afforded, as the manner of helping that lightened the burthens. Some had a coarse, rough, clumsy way of assisting a neighbour, which, though in fact it might be of real use, yet seemed, by galling the traveller, to add to the load it was intended to lighten ; while I observed in others, that so cheap a kindness as a mild word, or even an affectionate look, made a poor burthened wretch move on cheerily. The bare feeling that some human being cared for him, seemed to lighten the load. A female approached. She had a little old book in her hand, the covers of which were torn out by much use. When she saw the blind woman ready to faint, she would read her a few words out of this book, such as the following : "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." These quickened the pace, and sustained the spirits of the blind traveller ; and the kind neighbor, by thus directing the attention of the poor sufferer to the blessings of a better world, helped to enable her to sustain the afflictions of this, more effectually than if she had had gold and silver to bestow on her.

#### THE CLERGYMAN.

A pious minister, sinking under the weight of a distressed parish, whose worldly wants he was totally unable to bear, was suddenly relieved by a charitable widow, who came up and took all the sick and hungry on her own shoulders as her part of the load. The burthen of the parish, thus divided, became tolerable. The minister being no longer bowed down by the temporal distresses of his people, applied himself cheerfully to his own part of the weight. And it was pleasant to see how these two persons, neither of them very strong, or rich, or healthy, by thus kindly uniting together, were enabled to bear the weight of a whole parish, though singly, either of them must sink under the attempt. And I remember one great grief I felt during my whole journey was, that I did not see more of this union and concurring kindness, more of this acting in concert, by which all the burthens might have been so easily divided. It troubled me to observe, that of all the laws of the valley, there was not one more frequently broken than the law of kindness.