

The New Pastor.

BY HOLLIS FREEMAN.

The lady glanced, as the pastor spoke,
At his plain and homely face,
Noting the old and shabby coat,
Worn with so little grace,
The still, set figure; the toil worn hand,
And smiled at his words of grave command

His message given, the pastor looked
At the fair and smiling face,
Noting the folds of the silken dress,
The courteous, easy grace;
Reading the smile with a ready wit,
And the thoughts that lay hidden away in it.

"Do you remember," he gently asked,
"The pillars of old that stood
In the Tabernacle's curtained courts
Were of naught but shittim wood?
Chosen by Israel's God of old,
Stood the shittim pillars o'erlaid with gold."

"The commonest wood yet ordained by God
For His sacred service sweet,
Chosen and blessed, yea, adorned with gold,
And made for his presence meet!
Is there no lesson we can unfold
From those shittim pillars o'erlaid with gold?"

The smile had passed from the lady's face.
She murmured with thoughtful look:
"In earthly vessels this treasure is,
We read in the Holy Book."
The grace of the Spirit our common mould
O'erlay's like the shittim wood with gold.

The Power of Song.

In one of the hospitals of Edinburgh lay a wounded Scottish soldier. The surgeons had done all they could for him. He had been told he must die. He had a contempt for death, and prided himself on his fearlessness of facing it.

A rough and evil life, with none but evil associates, had blunted his sensibilities, and made profanity and scorn his second nature. To hear him speak one would think he had no piously nurtured childhood to remember, and that he had never looked upon religion but to despise it. But it was not so.

A noble and gentle-hearted man came to see the dying soldier. He addressed him with kind inquiries, talked with him tenderly of the life beyond death, and offered spiritual counsel. But the sick man paid him no attention or respect. He bluntly told him that he did not want any conversation.

"You will let me pray with you, will you not?" said the man at length.

"No; I know how to die without the help of religion." And he turned his face to the wall.

Further conversation could do no good, and the man did not attempt it. But he was not discouraged. After a moment's silence he began to sing the old hymn so familiar and so dear to every congregation in Scotland.

"O, mother dear, Jerusalem,
When shall I come to thee."

He had a pleasant voice, and the words and melody were sweet and touching, as he sang them. Pretty soon the soldier turned his face again. But its hardened expression was all gone.

"Who taught you that?" he asked when the hymn was done.

"My mother."

"So did mine. I learned it of her when I was a child, and I used to sing it to her." And there were tears in the man's eyes.

The ice was thawed away. It was easy to talk with him now. The word of Jesus entered in where the hymn had opened the door. Weeping, and with a hungry heart, he listened to the Christian's thoughts of death, and in his last moments turned to his mother's God and the sinner's Friend.

The End of a Dog's Quarrel.

ONE day a fine Newfoundland dog and a mastiff had a sharp discussion over a bone, and warred away as angrily as two boys. They were fight-

ing on a bridge; and the first they knew, over they went into the water. The banks were so high that they were forced to swim some distance before they came to a landing place. It was very easy for the Newfoundlander; he was as much at home in the water as a seal. But not so poor Bruce; he struggled and tried to swim, but made little headway. The Newfoundland dog quickly reached the land, and then turned to look at his old enemy. He saw plainly that his strength was fast failing, and that he was likely to drown. So what should the noble fellow do but plunge in, seize him gently by the collar, and, keeping his nose above water, tow him safely into port! It was funny to see these dogs look at each other as they shook their wet coats. Their glance said as plainly as words, "We'll never quarrel any more."

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