

**The Beautiful Damask: or, "There is No Difference.**



SOME time ago I had occasion to call at a nobleman's house. On arriving, I was told I had better speak to the housekeeper first, and was shown into her room, where I told my business. I had now to wait a few minutes before I could see the head of the house. Presently I saw a tall housemaid pass into a room

with a quantity of damask, of lily whiteness, of a beautiful pattern, and with an exquisite gloss on the surface. I was surprised to see her throw it in a heap into one corner of the spacious apartment, and take her departure. Soon after another maid came in with another bundle of damask, but of inferior kind; and close behind her followed a maid from the kitchen, with some very dingy-looking and greasy towels, and these were thrown into another corner. Presently a maid came with a bag in her hand, and the finest damask, the more inferior also, the dingy towels and greasy cloths,

were all put into the bag, and then thrown into a van outside, and carried off.

I said to one who was near me, "Did the fine white damask of such exquisite pattern and gloss require to be sent off in that way with the other things? I did not see a speck on it."

"Oh yes," said the maid; "his lordship would not have it on the table even if one tiny spot of grease or stain of any kind could be seen; and though you did not see any, yet there were several here and there."

I was now left alone for a few minutes, and I thought over the incident respecting the damask and the greasy towels. God's Word declares

that we "all have sinned"—that "there is no difference"—and that "he that offendeth in one point is guilty of all." Yet how little this truth is understood or believed! We now and then see people of good education, refined taste and manners, and comely appearance, in whose character, life, or conversation the mere passer-by or looker-on may not detect a stain; yet "the Lord seeth not as man seeth," He "looketh on the heart," and "by Him actions are weighed." It is easy to say that the drunkard, the swearer, the thief, the immoral person, and all other notorious sinners, stand in need of conversion, because

they are very bad people. But the Lord says that the amiable and outwardly religious must also be born again—even persons of such refined taste that they cannot mix with those who are "sinners" around them. These stand in need of the same cleansing as the harlot and profane, the drunkard and the thief.

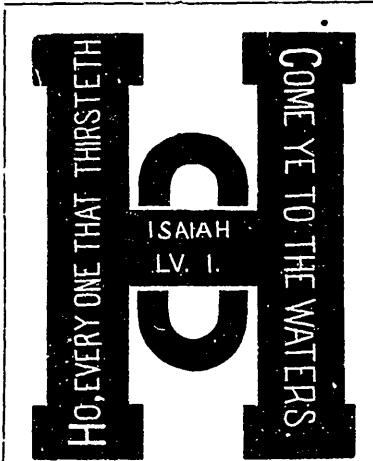
After a time some large baskets were brought in, and when uncovered and their contents placed upon the table, I could see some more of the damask, both of the fine quality and of the coarser, and also a number of towels, all of which had been made clean by the laun-

dress. "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth from *all* sin"—from ten thousand stains of the deepest dye, or from the few stains not seen by men, but by God above. We all need the cleansing alike, or we cannot be found or used in the King's presence. We must be clean and white to be fit for the Master's use.

Sinner, are you born again? Have you received Jesus joyfully? Have you been cleansed with the blood of Jesus? Have you been made willing to renounce all sin? "He that hath the Son hath life; he that hath not the Son of God hath not life, but the wrath of God abideth on him,"—*Drummond Tract.*

**THE GOSPEL ALPHABET. No. 8.**

He that drinketh of this water shall never Thirst.—Jn. iv. 14.  
Give me this water that I Thirst not.—Jn. iv. 15.  
They shall not Thirst any more.—Rev. vii. 16.



I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
The living water—**thirsty** one,  
Stoop down, and drink, and live,"  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
Of that life-giving stream;  
My **thirst** was quenched, my soul re-  
And now I live in Him. [vived,

My soul Thirsteth for God.—Palm xlii. 2.  
If any Thirst, let him come to Me.—John vii. 37.  
I was Thirsty, . . . ye gave me no drink.—Matt: xxv. 42.