

# Buds and Blossoms

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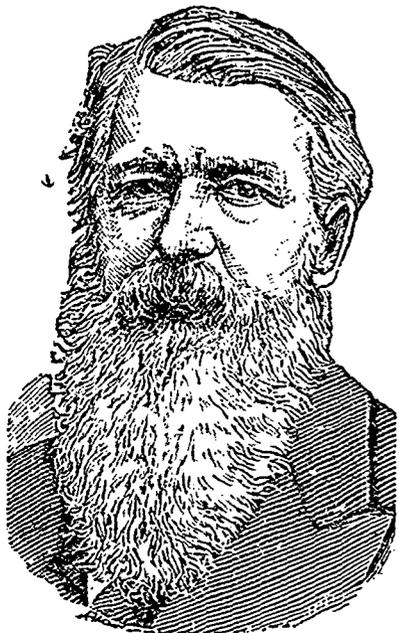
## Friendly Greetings.

"Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the world with fruit."

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THE LATE JOHN B. GOUGH.

### Ribbon of Blue Gospel Temperance Notes.

**B**E believe in showing and standing by our colors. "Trust in God, and do the bright." We fully agree that narcotics and alcoholic drinks are not friends but foes, and would say, however flavored or disguised, of the serpent beware. Both the stimulus and cheering influence of these things in so-called moderation is

deceptive and alluring, leading into a habit productive of many ills both to mind, soul and body. We would advise, Do not smoke, chew or drink. For the supposed comforters thus used, are not what they seem to be to the habitual user. Some correspondents seem to fear the Editor loves the weed. Why, we can hardly tell. It is certain our sanctum does not smell of smoke. The writer never used a particle of the weed which tends to make so many dull and stupid and prepare them for a stronger stimulant and narcotic. It always seemed an expensive and foolish habit, to say the least. More, to many, alas! it is a snare and a sin. Much time and substance has been idly puffed away. Instead of spending the time in prayerful and profitable meditation and endeavor, it

is sacrificed in a foolish dreaminess and listlessness, which cannot be pleasing to God, whose creatures we are, and whose love demands that we redeem the time, and give the passing moment something to keep in store.

A father who professed to scorn drunkenness said, "It would take ten glasses of wine to make me drunk." His little boy, seeing him pour out his second glass, said, "Then, father, you are only one-fifth drunk now." How far intoxicated is the man when soaked with the narcotic of tobacco. His nerves unstrung, unsteady, he tries, by lighting his little fire, to quench and stifle the unrest within. Friend, we do not condemn thee, but write in love. Whether it would be better to be clear of a habit certainly not of the cleanest or most economic character, judge ye. Would your example be likely to benefit others? How do you like to see an inveterate smoker? How would a pipe, cigarette or cigar look in the mouths and hands of your boys? If it is good and wholesome and a beneficial habit why not let the ladies smoke? It would certainly be more pleasant when travelling if all had the same taste and ideas of a goodly smell. What is more nauseous and poisonous than an old stale pipe filled with rank tobacco? If the habit is so ennobling and stimulating to self-elevation how comes it that our jails and poor-houses abound with both male and female proficient in the art of smoking?

If you do not like what is written do not please say so before your own boys. Maybe when you tell them not to smoke they will say, "But father does", and if they love you as they should, remember, until you cruelly undeceive them, you are their ideal of manliness.

"Run! speak to this young man,"

Unnumbered foes assail him,  
Lest in the rushing tide of life

His strength and courage fail him.  
Thine hand upon him, bid him think,  
Fly from the pipe, cigar, the drink;  
His feet are on the shelving brink;  
"Run! speak to this young man."

Friend, we know that this world is full of unrest; that amid the uneasiness of life's battles there is a yearning for something to satisfy and give peace. Be not deceived. It is not in the power of narcotics to satisfy and give thee lasting easement. But if you look to Jesus you will find in Him and from His word real and lasting rest and peace such as the world cannot give and can never take away.

A HINT TO THE ROMANS.—The Wages of Sin is Death, but the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Read, Romans vi. 23.