

A Star Fancy for a Child.

When summer nights are warm and dry,
The Scorpion with his flaming eye,
Down in the south as twilight grows,
Watches the lily and the rose.

He sees the poppies and the stocks,
The sunflowers and the hollyhocks;
Though all the trees are thick and green,
With his red eye he looks between.

But when the nights begin to freeze,
Eastwards behind the naked trees
Orion lifts his head to spy
Those stars that in the garden lie.

The Scorpion told him how they grew,
Purple and pink and white and blue;
So night by night Orion goes
To find the lily and the rose.

Night after night you see him stride
Across the south at Christmastide:
Though all the fields are white with snow,
He watches for those stars to blow.

But when 'tis near his time to rest,
Leaning his head towards the west,
When April nights are sharp and clear,
He sees those garden-stars appear.

For just before he sinks from sight,
He sees the borders strown with light,
And looking back across the hills,
Beholds the shining daffodils.

—G. Forrester Scott (John Halsham) in the *Spectator*.

Memory Gems.

"Plan not, nor scheme, but calmly wait:
His choice is best;
While blind and erring is thy sight,
His wisdom sees and judges right;
So trust and rest.
Then shall thy tossing soul find anchorage
And steadfast peace;
Thy love shall rest in his; thy weary doubts
Forever cease.

Nothing, that we can make or do in this world, is so
important as that which we build along the years in our-
selves.

There is no dearth of kindness
In this world of ours;
Only in our blindness,
We gather thorns for flowers.
Each loss has its compensation;
There are healings for each pain;
But a bird, with a broken pinion,
Never soars as high again.

Strong in your work and faith, look ever hopefully on-
ward, upward. No true woman can afford to heave a sigh
or drop a tear over life's passing disappointments; for

such trials, when borne cheerfully and with complete re-
signation to the Divine will, are but rounds in the Chris-
tian ladder, by which true nobility of heart and excel-
lence of soul are reached.—(P. C.)

Fill in thy moments well with lofty thought, with kindly
word and gentle action, whether thy calling be the heart's
choice or sacrifice; if the Master have a partnership therein,
success is yours.

I have always thought it my duty to cheer up those who
do not look on life as brightly as I do.—(H. P. W.)

CURRENT EVENTS.

A demand for reforms in Macedonia, pressed
by Russia and Austria, with the assent of the other
powers of Europe, has been readily agreed to by the
Sultan. But the Sultan's ability to carry out his
promises may be doubted; and it is also doubtful
whether any reform of the present administration
will make the Macedonians content with Turkish
rule.

The presidents of the Central American republics
of Salvador and Guatemala have arranged differ-
ences, which at the beginning of last month threat-
ened to end in war. But there is a conflict in the
republic of Honduras over the election of a presi-
dent, which may involve one or more of the other
Central American states, Salvador on the one side
and Nicaragua on the other, being in active sym-
pathy with the contending parties.

An Italian commission which has made a study of
yellow fever in Brazil rejects the theory that the
disease is transmitted by mosquitoes.

The British expedition against the Emir of Kano,
in Northern Nigeria, has been successful. The place
was occupied by a detachment of the West African
frontier force, on February 3, after an engagement
in which the enemy was defeated, but the city was
uninjured. The defeated Mohammedan leader has
fled to Sokoto, where he may hope for succor, as the
Emir of Sokoto is believed to be hostile to the
British.

The Sultan of Achin has tendered his submission
to the Dutch East Indian authorities. This ends a
war of thirty years standing, with but a brief period
of nominal peace, between the Dutch and the Achin-
ese; and for the first time gives to Holland peaceable
possession of the whole island of Sumatra.

Venezuela has agreed to thirty per cent. of the
customs receipts at certain ports being devoted to
the payments of her debts. The allied powers,
Britain, Germany and Italy, demanded that this
amount should be paid to them, leaving other cred-
itors to make their own arrangements with Ven-
ezuela now or later; but Venezuela insists that all
should share alike in this enforced payment, and
this point has been referred to the Hague tribunal.
Meanwhile, the blockade has been raised.