

RIGHT HAND OF FALSEHOOD.

It was a custom among the Jews, when an oath was administered in a court of justice, for the person who took the oath to lift up his right hand towards heaven, as invoking God to witness his veracity. Hence it was usual to describe a person who swore falsely, or violated his engagements thus solemnly made, as having a right hand of falsehood. Thus David, complaining of the treachery of his enemies, says, 'Their mouths speak vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood,' Psalm cxliv, 8, 11. The same form is still retained in Scotland.

POETRY.

"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING."

Go when the morning shineth,
Go when the noon is bright,
Go when the eve declineth,
Go in the hush of night.

Go with pure mind and feeling—
Fling earthly cares away,
And in thy chamber kneeling
Do thou in secret pray.

Remember all who love thee,
All who are loved by thee—
Pray, too, for those who hate thee,
If any such there be.

Then for thyself in meekness,
A blessing humbly claim—
And link with each petition
Thy great Redeemer's name.

Or, if 'tis e'er denied thee
In solitude, to pray—
Should holy thought come o'er thee,
When friends are round thy way—

Even then the silent breathing
Of thy spirit raised above,
Will reach His throne of glory,
Who is mercy, truth and love.

O, not a joy or blessing
With this can we compare—
The power which he has given us
To pour our souls in prayer.

Whene'er thou pin'st in sadness,
Before His footstool fall;
And remember in thy gladness,
His grace, who gave thee all.

GREATNESS AT HOME.

(Dialogue between two Roman matrons.)

LICINIA. I am the happiest wife in Rome
my Livia!

LIVIA. I doubt it not;
But there's Flaminius's wife, the other day,
Scarce from the Forum to her house could
pass,
For gratulation that her husband won
The Consulate.

LICINIA. That day my Caius sat
At home with me, and read to me, my Livia;
Little cared I who won the Consulate!

LIVIA. And there's Lectorius has obtain'd
a government—
His wife will be a queen!

LICINIA. Well, let her be so;
My queenom is to be a simple wife;
This is my government, my husband's house,
Where, when he sits with me, he is enthroned
Enough. You'll smile, but . . .
I'd rather see him with his boy upon
His knee, than seated in the Consul's chair,
With all the Senate round him.

LIVIA. Yet his greatness
Must needs be thine.

LICINIA. I do not care for greatness,
It is a thing lives too much out of doors;
'Tis any where but at home; you will not
find it
Once in a week in its own house at supper
With the family! Knock any hour you choose,
And ask for it: nine times in ten they'll send
you
To the Senate or the Forum, or to such
Or such a one in quest of it! 'Tis a month—
Since Caius took a meal from home, and that
Was with my brother. If he walks,
I walk along with him, if I choose; or if I
stay
Behind, it is a race 'twixt him and the time—
And when he's back, and the door shut on him,
Consummate happy is my world within—
I never think of any world without.

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