

# BUDS AND BLOSSOMS,

AND

Friendly Greetings.

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

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## Essence From The Temple Censer.

### A WORD TO OUR YOUNG CONVERTS.

**T**HE importance of a good beginning in a religious life can hardly be over-estimated. The first few years of your Christian life will determine your Christian character. Let your life be an active one from the start; cultivate the habit of Christian activity. Use the talents God gives you. This is the law of their increase. Speak and pray in the conference meeting. Speak to your friends of Christ. Cultivate a taste for such reading as will aid you in Christian work, *be an active Christian and you will be a happy one.*

Too many, when they unite with the church, are hardly heard from again. Make yourself useful to the church thus you make the church a help to you. Whenever called upon do the best you can. Make the interest of the church and Sunday-school your interest. Give regularly and cheerfully. Inform yourself respecting the great interests of missionary and other denominational and Christian enterprises. Develop a broad, sympathetic, large-minded Christian character. Don't be satisfied to be a mere member of the church. Make yourself with God's blessing an influence in the church. Remember that your Christian life is made up of many *little* things not a few *great* things. Hence have a conscience in these little duties and services, for fidelity in these things makes us worthy of greater responsibilities. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." The approval of God on the smallest service dignifies such a work and lifts it into greatness. Don't undertake too much, but do well whatever you attempt to do. Be a *thorough* Christian—this requires consistency, devotion and consecration. Be a Christian everywhere, not an obtrusive one, but a modest, manly or womanly one, but not a silent one. Let your life tell the world that you have been with Jesus and have learned of him. Be a devout reader and student of the Word of God. Make this your counsellor in all things, and habitually, by prayer, seek to know God's will. Cultivate a love for your church. If you are a Baptist be one because you can't be anything else. Beware of the so-called liberalism and false philosophy of the times. Have no fellowship with any teaching that would lessen the claims of Christ and his word upon the confidence of men. Have convictions and do not apologize to any one for them. Be thoroughly loyal to the truth, come from where it may. *All truth is one.* Look on the bright side of things.—"If God be for you who can be against you?" If doubts arise, try them on your

knees, at the bar of an open Bible. Help others and you will best help yourself.

The following letter was received a few days since, through a friend to whom it was enclosed, with a P. S. 'If Mr. Avery thinks well of letting his flock know that the good seed has taken effect in my case, he can do so.' Of course names are suppressed, and the letter is published with a desire to glorify God, and to magnify all sufficient grace and encourage others. Since receiving the letter, some one said, 'I have every faith in the writer, he has paid up his back debts; it is astonishing how he is getting along, and using his talent and Education.'

I received your welcome letter this morning, and hasten to answer it. I was very glad to hear your interesting account of the good work going on in Halifax in connection with the "Tabernacle," and pray the Lord will still further bless the efforts of His earnest and devoted servant—your zealous pastor, Rev. Mr. Avery. He has been, as you are aware, the means in the hand of a merciful Father of "turning me from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God," when steeped in Infidelity and Socialism; a sceptic of the deepest dye, who continually studied to perfect my unbelief, and root out the last promptings of a conscience almost extinguished by the degrading "Pleasures of Sin."

"My dear Friend.—The grace of God is sufficient for even such as I was, and the Power of His Love reached me through the barrier of Scepticism I had taken such pains to erect, cast the baseless fabric to the earth, and revealed my own miserable and dangerous condition. I was overwhelmed with a sense of my unworthiness and almost despaired. I determined to go no more to the "Tabernacle," and entertained very uncharitable feelings towards Mr. Avery for creating such unpleasant sensations. The Master in his love and mercy however overruled this resolution. I went to hear your dear pastor again, and through him, Christ spoke words of hope, and peace, and joy to my soul that Sabbath evening, which caused the angels of Heaven to rejoice, for the wretched Prodigal who had wandered so very far from God, has returned to His allegiance, and has known and proved the "unspeakable richness of His grace" ever since.

You may show this letter to my Revd. and dear Brother in Christ, as it may encourage him in his good work; ask him to send me "Buds & Blossoms" regularly, for which I enclose a year's subscription.

Letters have been received from the following absent members, who send gratifying reports of their remembrance of their spiritual home.—Mrs. Bennett, U. S., Miss McNeil, U. S., Mrs. Moland, U. S., William Pearce, U.S., Miss S. Clawson, N.S., Miss Grant, U.S.