

WE SHALL MEET. BY AND BY.

Words by Rev. E. A. HOFFMAN.

Music by T. C. O'KANE.

1. When we bid fare - well to the last dear friend, And our ran-som'd souls to the Lord as - cend. In the

sun-bright clime be - yond the sky, We shall meet each o - ther by and by. We shall meet and re - st, By and

by By and by, In the man - sions blest, Of the sweet By and by.

We shall meet and rest, By and by, by and by, By and by. In the man-sions blest. Of the sweet By and bye.

When the saved shall stand on the golden shore,
Of the bright and beautiful evermore,
Or shall walk the sapphire streets on high,
We shall meet each other by and by.
We shall meet, etc.

When this mortal life runs its weary round,
And the earth-freed soul takes its upward bound,
In the grand celestial home on high,
We shall meet each other by and by.
We shall meet, etc.

welled forth to welcome us? Not so did our Lord and Master reason. Even the least of circumstances had for His great soul interest such as attaches to the forces that may work so much of good or ill to mankind. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without the knowledge of the Great Jehovah, and hence arises the strange but certain truth, that to the Head of the Universe there is nothing small, contemptible, or undeserving of regard.

We are not sufficiently on the alert for small things, and yet we suffer sometimes from this negligence in the unavailing remorse and bitter sorrow of after life. Let us feel sure that life is composed of little things, however man may affect to despise them. It is the hourly and daily aggregate of the smaller and less noticed items that, silently built up, awes and even saddens in the complete misery that we often read and study about others. Then, indeed, the truth breaks upon us that trivial incidents sometimes start out with vivid effects, and we feel it a warning not to disregard them in our own experience. Lives there are around us which abundantly demonstrate how much lies wrapped in what apparently are insignificant details and inconsiderable points of interest. We sometimes realise this with strange distinctness, when some little trait of the character of an individual creeps out, and lets a flood of light into the disposition and manner of his life. And very often an exceedingly "small thing" in this way will do more to give us a key for the unlocking of the natures of those about us than a broader and less keen study of the whole walk and conversation would have effected.

It is pleasant to remember, however, that if the small things of life have such power to work mischief, they have also equally an influence in the opposite direction. If the petty things, as we term them, that are careless, ill-natured, and spiteful can do much harm, their counterparts, working by smiles, kind words, and genial manners can and do spread an atmosphere of contentment, and joy, and cheery feeling abroad in the world, compensating greatly for the ills that so worry and harass us. This is the operation of a law that is seen in God's world without distinction or difference throughout. Is there a bane? look, near also will be found the antidote. Is there an evil? there also will be seen a good to counteract and counterpoise its malignity. How much of benignant blessing has often been showered around the puny but earnest efforts of the noble and the single-minded! Often has an eloquent thought and a thrilling utterance from the

preacher's lips served to turn the listener from degradation and ruin, to God and purity! Often have the Divine words of warning and consolation that sparkle from the pages of the Book itself soothed the rebellious, won over the proud, and softened the grief of the bereaved. A word spoken in season, how good it is! One amongst the many "small things" we heed not, but yet often filled with a rich fruitfulness that the future alone reveals—influence that shall work long after the lips that spoke are stilled and cold for ever. Let us not, then, despise the "small things" of this world; for under them and around them is concealed much of joy and sorrow, good and evil, health and disease of the soul for this life and that which is to come.

E. CLIFFORD.

PRACTICAL CHARITY.

A GOOD deed should always be commended, as a wise example should always be followed. The Great Teacher himself said, "The poor ye have always with you," and the question which often agitates churches and governments is how the wants of the poor can be most effectually relieved. This question is sometimes complicated by the necessity of discriminating between genuine and spurious cases of distress. In this, and perhaps in all countries, there is the nuisance of tramps and impostors, by whom the generous are imposed upon. Hence the importance of careful inquiry and systematic aid. In Scotland an admirable method is adopted, and the amount of charity bestowed is as generous as the system is discreet. There is proper inquiry; there is authentic information; there is discriminating relief. And as the result, there is scarcely a poor family or individual who does not obtain assistance in time of need. There are soup-kitchens; there are free breakfasts; there is the distribution of coal; there is the bestowment of clothing, tea, sugar, bread, and sundry other articles; and in this work churches, councils, parochial boards, landlords, committees, private persons, all unite. The public wants are, therefore, supplied in a most praiseworthy manner, and an example is set which is worthy of general imitation.

LABOUR to die to this life, the enjoyments and comforts of it, more and more every day; loose thy rooting in this world, and the tree will fall the more easily. Die with Christ in thy arms and a promise in thy hand.