

Buds and Blossoms

AND

Friendly Greetings.

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

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PICTORIAL ASSOCIATED PRESS N. Y.

Yours truly,

J. F. AVERY.

Through the kindness of a friend in New York we give the above cut.

It may be interesting to our readers to know that the Editor was born near Norwich, Norfolk, England, Jan. 18, 1816, and at an early age was led to confess Christ. When about 18 years old in a very providential manner God called him to preach the Gospel, and about three years after opened the way for entrance into the Pastor's (Rev. C. H. Spurgeon's) College. After leaving college, eighteen months was spent in Evangelistic drill and co-pastoral work in Eythorne, Kent. From thence by gracious leading work opened in Devonshire, and in a spot lovely for situation the first home nest was built and all went well, when after two years and a half a strange impression took possession of the writer,—“You are wanted and must go to Nova Scotia.” Against the advice of friends, including Rev. C. H. Spurgeon the desire and impulse grew; til' in faith and not by sight, in May, 1873, it was determined to break up the home and if needs be, risk and sacrifice everything and go not knowing whither, trusting in God's leading. Confident a church and work awaited on the other side.

We did not land from the steamer before asked to preach. The result is known to many of our readers. After a very successful year and a half in the North Church, when and where many were added to the

Lord, providentially the way opened to organize a new cause and church, and in 1875 the present Tabernacle work was commenced. For all and any success attained the Lord's name be praised.

By Way of Preface.

Kind reader, having through the goodness of God, been permitted to issue this Magazine for nine years now past, with many tokens of blessing, we desire to express our gratitude to Him by whose grace we have been enabled, amidst many other labors, to undertake and to accomplish this work with such a measure of success.

Blessed be the Lord, for what is past,
And that which is;
For all are His, from first to last.

We aim to go forward, and to enter many more homes with the *Buds and Blossoms* of Gospel truth. We feel bold to ask your assistance, because so far it has been a service of love on our part, and all the subscription and advertisements, yea more has been expended on the magazine and the free copies issued. Last year over ELEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED COPIES, or leaving out the advertising pages and covers, which we try to make serve the King, THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THOUSAND solid pages of reading matter full of the gospel spirit were scattered free, looking to God to bless the seed and reward of the sowing. This was in addition to subscribers copies, and the thousands of leaflets printed and circulated. Remembrance of the humble beginning of *Buds and Blossoms*, often cheer us on when we contrast the present, then it was a sixteen page monthly, we issued all told less copies in a year than will be printed for this month's issue. Now and then we meet with a mean person on our regular mailing list who, after a year or two try and defraud us of subscriptions due. Thank God they are the exceptions. Often we are cheered by the widows and poor man's mite, and thus aided to meet our heavy expenses.

Sometimes when the brain and pen have grown weary, we have sighed for a larger financial return, so as to be able to employ more assistance in our various endeavors. We hope the Master will open up the way, so that strength can be utilized for this service and our growing demands in the service of the Tabernacle Church, work which we love so well.

Every new subscriber gained is some help in this direction. Send your copy and interview your friends to this end.

Yours,

TO SERVE FOR CHRIST'S SAKE.