

Buds and Blossoms

AND

Friendly Greetings.

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

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Pickings After the Feast.



It is said that a sea voyage improves the flavor of good wine. If this is so, we have good hope that our pickings from the Northfield Convention will not be found stale or unsavoury. The material has twice crossed the Atlantic. Now on its return, after reading, we decide it is evident they had a kingly feast, and wine such as Jesus gives His guest, and that it is not too late to pass round some of the fragments gathered up. It will be remembered that Mr. D. L. Moody has erected at the place and home of his boyhood a stately pile of buildings, devoted to the training of Indian boys and girls; and that in the summer vacation the school is turned into a place for the study of the Bible and other religious exercises. This year 300 students from nearly 100 colleges, chosen to represent their fellow students, spent their vacation, or a part thereof, at Mount Hermon, Northfield, in the earnest spiritual atmosphere there. They caught the true missionary spirit, and instead of a score of young men for missionary service, at the close of the meetings, ninety-six declared themselves candidates for mission work in heathen lands.

Some of the best things mentioned, were by Mr. Moody and others from their bible markings:

The Rev. W. F. Crafts suggested that Ps. ciii. 3-5 might be pictured in Bible margins as David's ladder to heaven, with the following words on the successive rounds from the bottom:—"Forgiveth," "healeth," "redeemeth," "crowneth," "satisfieth." Faith might be pictured as a bridge of four arches—(1) the arch of belief, built by the intelligent; (2) the arch of submission, built by the will; (3) the arch of trust, built by the heart; (4) the arch of manifestation, built by the life.

He spoke of using arrows (the red lights of danger in the Orient) to mark in Bible margins all passages of warning and judgment, and a red cross inserted in the very midst of every passage which is known to have led any one to conversion, that such passages may be quickly found when working with enquirers.

Some one had underscored the two "begans" in the story of the prodigal (Luke xv.)—"Began to be in want"; "Began to be merry." The earthly woes of sin are only a beginning of sorrows; the earthly joys of the Christian only the beginning of his endless joy.

Another extract from a worn Bible was: "The sinner has his death and his judgment before him. The Christian has death and judgment behind him." Another: "Jesus came from heaven about our sins.

Jesus went back about our miseries. Jesus is coming again about our glory."

Mr. S. E. Bridgman read from his marked Bible at the opening Revelation that it contained 245 recognitions of the Old Testament.

On the fly-leaf of Mr. Moody's Bible a friend has written in a small circle in the centre of the page "D. L. Moody" and around it seven other circles (as in a target) with the following promises of protection written out in them: Cant. ii. 6; Lam. iii. 7; Ps. xxxii. 7; Ps. xxxvi. 7; Ps. xxxii. 10; Ps. cxxv. 2; Zec. ii. 5.

On an interleaf, at the story of the Cross, he has the following:—For the servant the Master died; for the guilty the Innocent died; for the debtor the Creditor died; for the sick the Physician died; for the flock the Shepherd died; for the subject the King died; for the soldier the Leader died; for the work the Maker died; for man God died.

What shall the servant, the guilty, etc., render to the Master, etc.? Let him love.

Mr. Moody also read from his Bible a note of the contrasts in the first three and last three chapters of the Bible. Genesis tells of creation; Revelation, of the new heavens and new earth. Genesis tells of Satan tempting; Revelation, of Satan overthrown. Genesis tells how sorrow entered this world; Revelation, of a world where there is no sorrow. Genesis tells of the earth being cursed; Revelation of the time when there shall be no more curse. Genesis tells of the tree of life lost; Revelation, of the tree of life restored: Genesis shows how man came under the dominion of death; Revelation summons the dead, small and great, before God. Genesis tells how the first Adam lost his kingdom; Revelation, how the "Second Adam" became victorious.

In Mr. Moody's Bible, Col. iii. 12, 13, is noted on the margin by words and picture as "The Christian's whip of seven lashes."

☞ TAKE NOTICE.—There he goes. He is a member of the church—on his way to his dinner; he always goes. He is true to his dinner, and walks a mile and a half to get it. He may stay away from his prayer meeting; he forgets his church meeting; he is slow in his pew rent; he is neglectful of the Sunday-school; bad weather keeps him back from many things; but in all his fickleness and failings, he is true to his dinner. He may slight his soul, but he is true to his stomach. Every man has his god, and serves him faithfully. But, then, not every man has the same God.—*Religious Herald.*

Never stoop to do or say anything that is beneath the dignity of the character to which you aspire.