

# THE WESLEYAN.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS."

Scripture.

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## POETRY.

### A MOTHER'S SACRIFICE.

By Mrs. SIGOURNEY.

"God loveth a cheerful giver."

"WHAT shall I render Thee, Father Supreme,  
For thy rich gifts, and this the best of all?"  
Said the young mother, as she fondly watched  
Her sleeping babe. There was an answering voice  
That night in dreams;—

"Thou hast a tender flower  
Upon thy breast—fed with the dews of love.  
Lend me that flower. Such flowers there are in Heaven."  
But there was silence. Yea, a hush so deep,  
Breathless, and terror-stricken that the lip  
Bleached in its trance.

"Thou hast a little flower,  
How sweetly would it swell the angel's hymn—  
Yield me the harp."

There rose a shuddering sob,  
As if the bosom by some hidden sword  
Was cleft in twain.

Morn came—a blight had found  
The crimson velvet of the unfolding bud,  
The harp-strings ran a thrilling strain, and broke—  
And that young mother lay upon the earth,  
In childless agony!

Again the voice  
That stirred her vision—

"He who asked of thee,  
Loveth a cheerful giver." So she raised  
Her gushing eyes, and ere the tear-drops dried  
Upon its fringes, smiled—and that meek smile,  
Like Abraham's faith, was counted righteousness.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

### "THE DAIRYMAN'S DAUGHTER."

(Concluded from page 124.)

WITHIN the year after her joining the Methodist society, she was obliged by ill health, to leave her situation at Southampton, and return to her parents, at Arreton. Getting a little better, she went to reside in a pious family belonging to the Wesleyan society at West Cowes. After this she took up her abode in other pious families in the island; but not quite recovering her health, and having something laid by from former years' earnings, she did not, after leaving Southampton, hire herself any more as a servant for stipulated wages. Choosing now to wear the humblest apparel, and desiring nothing but the plainest food, and, at the same time, walking as she did as on the verge of eternity, she felt that she wanted but little here below, and saw that she should not want that little long.

As an instance of her mortified spirit and self-annihilation, a friend of hers (who has just now gone to join her above) informed me that she dined with him,

he believed, the last time she was at Newport; and when they sat down to partake of the humble meal provided for them, she abstained from the use of anything but potatoes, declaring that, so deeply was she penetrated with a sense of her own unworthiness in the sight of God, that she felt that only the meanest fare was fit for the use of such a sinner as she was; exemplifying the feeling of the Patriarch, when he exclaimed, "I am not worthy of the least of all thy mercies."

In the above letter, we have a striking development of her benevolent and generous spirit as to others, however self-denying she might be in regard to her own personal comforts. There was in the Newport society a pious and a very afflicted man of the name of William Adey, well known and much esteemed; but at this time he and his wife were poor and much distressed. The charitable Dairyman's Daughter, now residing at Cowes, heard of his case, and forwarded for him a small parcel to a mutual friend residing at Newport, who took it at once to his needy brother, and, carelessly throwing it on the table, said, with apparent unconcern, "I wish you may find a guinea in it." On opening its careful foldings, to their agreeable and grateful surprise, it did contain "a guinea for William Adey, presented to him by Elizabeth Wallbridge." William told me this himself, with much emotion, on his dying bed, on my incidentally asking him if he knew any thing of her. He added, "O she was a good creature; and at another time, when she knew I was in want, she kindly sent me half-a-guinea."

She lived in the spirit of obedience to that useful direction of Methodism, "Exhort, instruct, reprove, all you have any intercourse with." None were spared; not even old professors, when she saw any hope of being useful. And a word of exhortation or reproof was sometimes followed by an act of kindness in reference to temporal circumstances, in order to enforce attention to matter of higher moment. A little before her death, happening to be at a house in Newport, a neighbour stepped in: a poor woman, and destitute of religion. Elizabeth seized the opportunity of conversing with her very closely about her soul, and the affairs of another world; and, that she might fasten the words of holy counsel on the heart of the poor woman, she immediately afterwards sent her one of her own gowns, of some value.

Such was "the Dairyman's Daughter," when she so providentially fell into the hands of the Rev. Logie Richmond. Till that period it does not appear that she had intercourse with any other Christian friends but the Methodists. By them her piety was sur-