

 Buds and Blossoms.



LET our friends canvass actively, and send us many subscribers, new and old. The success of a magazine depends mostly on the activity of those who solicit for subscribers to increase its circulation. These are the experienced words of one who has had a longer experience. Nature teaches that BUDS AND BLOSSOMS cannot be expected to attain their fullest development unless faith is evidenced by careful planting and watering, and honestly using the God-ordained means for the obtaining the divinely given increase, without which no spiritual fruit will be found by the chief husbandman, who has promised to bless rightly directed effort. Last month outside our own intention, circumstances so transpired, that instead of publishing 40,000 pages we had to issue, or rather in faith did issue 80,000, worth at 6 cents per copy, \$120. Our Master knoweth the motive which prompted us to so freely and widely scatter BUDS AND BLOSSOMS, and thus by extra expenditure to forestall a mistake, which if allowed to go forth uncorrected might have injured our circulation, there being a repetition of numbers and plates. Evidently good came out of evil, for 1,000 extra copies were published, and we gave away at least 1,600. Our paying list although gradually growing, is far too small in proportion to our free issue and circulation. Who will join with us their prayers and efforts to increase our regular list of subscribers? With continued and proportionate grace, we feel satisfied, with a larger income more work can be overtaken with less wear and tear to body and mind. Ask that our free scattering of B. and B. may bring in many new names and the desired help. We rejoice in the good we are thus enabled to do, and are not a little cheered to find BUDS AND BLOSSOMS are being enquired for in the far prairie west. When a little tired the other day, a letter came saying, "Be encouraged dear bro. in your efforts to save the perishing. Eternity will alone reveal the full result. Enclosed please find \$5. You can use 50c. for a couple of chairs, and the balance as you deem most for the glory of God."

Signed, *Deo Non Fortuna.*

We have no idea who this person is but his strange nom de plume had even a more cheering effect than the enclosed cash. *Deo non Fortuna*, "*God not Fortune*," is the interpretation of the motto, and it seems to brace anew for the work of scattering B. and B. The mistake and consequent increased issue, was God, not fortune, and we can in faith wait results.

The story is told of Senator Vance of North Carolina, that soon after his second marriage he remarked to his bride. "I am a stubborn fellow, and you may anticipate trouble. Now, in the beginning, while I am submissive, I want to give you one piece of advice. If you follow it we'll get along well. It is this: "Make me do as I please."

☞ All persons who receive a copy of this magazine who are not subscribers, will understand that it is an invitation to become a subscriber. If you will please read this carefully we feel assured you cannot be but pleased with it. Try it for a year; also try to induce your friends to subscribe for it.

Ribbon of Blue, Temperance Notes.

DRUNKENNESS IS A NATIONAL FOE.

It is sad to see how drinking habits gain ground in India, not only among the masses, but among the richer people of the land.

The editor of a native paper at Patna, writes that the evidence before the commission of the evils of the system are simply overwhelming, and that the drugging of the native liquor has been fully proved. The liquor is no longer spirits, but a concoction of all manner of noxious material, which is sold at the price of about one penny per quart bottle. The exceeding cheapness of the stuff, and the additional facilities to get it, has resulted in an enormous increase in drinking and drunkenness in Bengal.

Within the last few years no less than six rajahs have gone to a premature grave through intoxication, in the shape of champagne and brandy. Not long ago, as I was passing by the house of a large Zemander, while out intinerating, I heard music and dancing, and was told that the chief man of the place, who had a large estate, had a revel in his house every night, and that bad women and brandy were fast swallowing up his "broad acres," which were being taken hold of bit by bit by the money-lenders, who are fast becoming the landholders of India.

At the recent Baptist missionary conference in India it was resolved that all missionary agents and all members of the churches, should discontinue and discourage the use of all intoxicants. Only three dissentients voted against the resolution. "Ten years ago," says the *Indian Baptist*, "probably half the members would have voted against it; but the total abstinence tide is rising among Christian men in India, as it is at home."

CAN CHRISTIANS UPHOLD THE DRINK TRAFFIC AND BE BLAMELESS BEFORE GOD?

A retired naval officer says:—"What sacrifice of human life has drink caused on the ocean! How many gallant ships with their crew have foundered in the mighty deep, destroyed by fire, erroneous navigation, and other casualties, that might be attributed if all secrets were known, to drink! Few men who have passed years of their life at sea but could testify to many calamities that occurred from this monstrous evil. At the time when corporeal punishment was inflicted in the navy, nine-tenths of the offences were through drunkenness or mutinous conduct arising therefrom.

Hear the evidence of one of the present Cabinet Ministers who visited California a few years ago:—"I was astonished," said he, "to find in a population of 30,000 Chinese idolaters no drunkenness, quarrelling, or tumult, and three or four policemen found sufficient to maintain peace and order—a remarkable and striking contrast to that existing in this nominal Christian land."

In the Irish famine year nearly \$50,000,000 were consumed in liquors by a people who say they cannot pay their rents and debts.

The Medical Temperance Hospital of Great Britain where no alcohol is used as a medicine has a death-rate of only four and a half per cent, which is lower than in general hospitals in the country.