

8. Do you give your *best* to the Lord, or what you can best spare?—"And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it not evil?* and if ye offer the lame and sick, *is it not evil?* offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts. Ye said also, Behold what a weariness *is it!* and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought *that which was torn*, and the lame and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord. But cursed be the deceiver, which bath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing, for I *am* a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen;" Mal. i, 8. 13. 14.

9. Do you think most about what you can get for your dying body, or what you can *give* for the kingdom of Christ?—"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."

10. Does Christ know that you so love him, as that you would follow him, were he to require you to sell all that you have?—"Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up thy cross, and follow me." Mark, x. 21.

11. How many evidences of discipleship will you have on the judgment day, in what you have given to Christ?—"For I was an hungered and you gave me meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in.—Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me;" Matt. xxv. 35. 36.

12. How often have you made to yourself a "friend" of this world's wealth, as that it shall witness *for* and not *against* you at that day?—"And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations;" Luke, xvi. 9.

13. If you think you have the excuse of straitened circumstances, are you as an-

xious to give like a gentleman or lady ~~as~~ to dress like one?—"Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, *even* unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." 1 Tim. ii. 9. 10.

THE NEW SONG.

It was a fine evening in autumn; the last portion of a plentiful harvest had just been brought home, and every one looked busy and cheerful about that most hospitable of all dwellings, a comfortable Irish farm-house. The farmer and his labourers were giving a few finishing touches to the newly erected corn stacks which crowded the yard; and his wife was superintending the milking of her cows and sheep; while the young girls who performed this part of the domestic duties, beguiled the pleasant toil by singing snatches of the mirthful but always touching melodies of their native land. A group of noisy children at play completed the scene.

It was a cheerful one, which it would have been difficult for any person of kind feeling to contemplate without forming a wish responding to the salutation of an old woman who was observed tottering up a lane leading from the high road; and who, entering the yard, addressed each busy group as she walked through it, in these words:

"God save all here, and keep you long happy."

From the appearance of the newly arrived visitor it was evident that she was one of a very humble kind; still her greeting was everywhere answered with a warm, "Welcome, Nelly, kindly welcome."

The mistress of the establishment seemed particularly pleased to see her; while her little daughter, who was at play with the other children, left them the moment she saw the old woman, and springing into her arms, exclaimed, "You're welcome at last, Nelly. It is a very long time since you came to us."

"So it is, my darling," added her mother, "and as I am busy here, do you take her into the house, and make her sit down to rest herself; and when I go in, Nelly, you shall have as good a cup of tea as you ever tasted, for you look tired."

The child, taking their aged guest by the hand, led her towards the house, seeming well pleased with the commission to take care of her, for Nelly was a favourite everywhere, especially among young people. She had been, for many years, living on the charity of