

When in difficulty and distress, he looks around for advice, assistance and consolation.

No wonder, therefore, that a sentiment of such importance to man should have been so frequently and so fully considered. We can scarcely open any of the volumes of antiquity without being reminded how excellent a thing is friendship. The examples of David and Jonathan, Achilles and Patroclus, Damon and Pythias, all show to what degree of enthusiasm it was sometimes carried. Even the great Cicero deemed it of sufficient importance to form the subject of one of his masterly essays. But it is to be feared that in modern times friendship is seldom remarkable for similar devotedness. With some it is nominal rather than real, and with others it is regulated entirely by self-interest. Yet it would, no doubt, be possible to produce from every rank in life, and from every state of society instances of sincere and disinterested friendship creditable to human nature, and to the age in which we live. We can not think so ill of our species as to believe that selfishness has got the better of their nobler feelings sufficiently to destroy their sympathy with their fellow creatures, and their love towards those whom God hath given them for neighbors and brethren.

After these remarks, to enlarge on the benefits of possessing a real friend appears unnecessary. What would be more intolerable than the consciousness that in all the wide world not one heart beat in unison with our own, or cared for our welfare? What indescribable happiness must it be on the other hand to possess a real friend; a friend who will counsel, instruct, assist, who will bear a willing part in our calamity, and cordially rejoice when the hours of happiness returns!

Let us remember, however, that all who assume the name of friends are not entitled to our confidence. History records many instances of the fatal consequences of infidelity in friendship;

and it cannot be denied that the world contains men who are happy to find a heart they can pervert, or a head they can mislead, if thus their unworthy ends can be more surely attained. Caution in the formation of friendships is, therefore, in the highest degree necessary. We should admit none to to the altar of our social affections without closely scrutinizing their lives and characters. We must assure ourselves of the uprightness and truth of those to whom we open our hearts in friendship, if we would not have a pernicious influence exerted on our own dispositions; if we would not, in the hour of trial find ourselves forgotten and abandoned to the cold charities of an unsympathizing world.

W. A. C.

THE ORIENT.

Could I impart
By some true art
The vision that I see,
The inward light,
The outward sight,
That meet and blend in me.

The world would gaze
In future days
'Till on it this would roll,
That soon will pass
And then, alas!
But live within one soul.

'Tis a common thing
I'd paint or sing,
That happens every morn;
Yet not just so
Does the orient glow
When the day is being born.

The eternal blue
Is peeping through
The clouds below unfurled,
And is purer made
By the light and shade
Contrast of the lower world.

And now I feel
This might reveal
Somewhat the nature of God;
His realm above;
His beaming love;
His calm, serene abode.