

Gleanings.

UNCERTAINTY.

O Father, hear !
The way is dark, and I would fain discern
What steps to take, into which path to turn ;
Oh ! make it clear.

My faith is weak ;
I long to hear Thee say, " This is the way ;
Walk in it, fainting-soul, I'll be thy stay ;"
Speak, Lord, Oh speak !

Let Thy strong arm
Reach through the gloom to lean upon,
And with a willing heart I'll journey on,
And fear no harm.

I wait for Thee,
As those who, watching, wait the coming dawn ;
Pant as for water pants the thirsty fawn ;
Oh ! come to me.

It is *Thy child*
Who sits in dim uncertainty and doubt,
Waiting and longing till the light shine out
Upon the wild.

My Father ! see,
I trust the faithfulness displayed of old,
I trust the love that never can grow cold ;
I trust in *Thee*.

And Thou wilt guide ;
For Thou hast promised never to forsake
The soul that Thee its confidence doth make ;
I've none beside.

Thou knowest me ;
Thou knowest how I now in darkness grope ;
And oh ! Thou knowest that my only hope
Is found in *Thee*.

—*Christian Intelligencer.*

SOCIAL PRAYER.—How true are these remarks of Rev. T. K. Beecher :—"And social prayer, or prayer-meetings, are helps. For somehow, our personal wants and frets and childishness are not so intense when we come together to talk them over socially. They are not worth speaking of in prayer-meeting ! Again and again Christians have come to us to ask for pastoral counsel and comfort because of some acute distress ; and lo ! the mere attempt to tell it to us took away the heat and heart of the story, and they smiled back at our smile, saying, "It is real bad, but I can't make it seem so now." Distresses that eat into one's solitary moods, are quite diluted in a little meeting of truth-telling Christians. We are none of us tempted beyond what we are able to bear. But it is not good to be all alone when called to bear the toothache or the heartache. Come out and pray. Come out and fix up the story of your great sorrow, so that others may pray with you, and mayhap your great sorrow may shrink away to nothing in the cooler, truer light of social prayer. But men ought ALWAYS to pray. With or without