

deacon. "Come along. Mrs. Kimper, you come, too; so Samuel will have no excuse to stay home."

"Me?" gasped Mrs. Kimper. "Me—in meetin'? Goodness, deacon. Besides"—here she dragged her scanty clothing about her more closely—"I ain't fit to be seen among decent folks."

"Clothes don't count for anything in the house of the Lord," said the deacon stoutly, though he knew they did. "Meeting begins at half-past seven and the sun's down now."

"Nan," whispered Sam, "come along. You can slip in a back seat, an' nobody'll see nothin' but your face. Stand by me, Nan—I'm your husband. Stand by me, so I can stand by my only Friend."

"Deacon ain't no friend o' yourn," whispered the trembling woman in reply.

"I'm not talking about the deacon, Nan. Don't go back on me. You're my wife, Nan; you don't know what that means to me now; you reely don't."

Mrs. Kimper stared—then she almost smiled.

"I mean it, Nan," whispered the man.

Mrs. Kimper rummaged for a moment in the drawers of a dilapidated bureau, and finally folded a red handkerchief and tied it over her head.

"Good," said the deacon, who had been watching the couple closely. "We'll go around by the back way, so nobody'll see either of you, if you don't want them to. I'll take Samuel along with me, and you can drop in wherever you think best, Mrs. Kimper. I'm not going back on any man who's going to turn over a new leaf. Come along."

SONNET : LIFE.

BY THE REV. M. R. KNIGHT.

WHAT is our life? He cannot tell whose eyes
Are bent upon the ground, and see alone
The labour and its wages; who the moan
Of weariness doth hear, the bitter cries
Of sufferer, orphan, starveling; nor doth rise
To that sun-lighted peak where clear is shown
Life's joy and beauty, and above each groan
Hear the lark singing in the laughing skies.

Not in man's abundance, poverty,
His life is; but his life is more than meat
And raiment. He is master—he is free:
Both dearth and plenty bow down at his feet:
Who hath clear eyes 'neath weal and woe can see
The growth and glory in life's royal seat.

BENTON, N.B.