

THE FLOWERS.

Louis stood in the garden before a rose-bush in bloom, and said to his sisters, "The rose is certainly the most beautiful of all the flowers!"

Caroline said, "The lily on the flower-bed yonder is quite as beautiful as the rose. I take these two flowers for the most beautiful; all others are worthless compared with them."

"Oh!" said little Louisa, "you must not consider the lovely violets worthless: they are really beautiful! and they gave us so much enjoyment last spring."

Their mother, who had heard the conversation of her children, said, "The three kinds of flowers which please you so much are beautiful likenesses and symbols of three beautiful virtues. The violet, with its modest dark-blue color, is a symbol of Meekness; the snow-white lily is a symbol of Innocence; but the red rose signifies that your heart shall glow with purer excellence, even with the love of God."

"Cloth'd in the guise of flowers, the forms we see
Of Meekness, Innocence, and Charity."

THE CLEANLY LANDLADY.

A cooper from the town was employed to mend some casks for an innkeeper in the country; and after he had finished his work he came into the landlady's room, who brought him a pint of wine. "Well, my worthy hostess of the Sun, how goes business?" inquired the cooper.

"Not so well as it might," replied the landlady. "The people from the town almost all stop at the house of my neighbour, the landlord of the Star; but they seem to despise my wine, though it is undeniably better. I can't tell how it is at all."

The cooper said, "I could tell you exactly, landlady, if you would not take it amiss of me."

"Quite the reverse," said the landlady; I should rather regard it as an act of friendship."

"Well, then," said the cooper, "if so, I must out with my observa-

tions. The landlord of the Star has certainly not got such good wine as you, but his glasses are bright and clean as crystal. My landlady of the Sun has, on the contrary, better wine, but glasses which are dirty and smeared with flies. Now, let the wine be ever so good, still it does not taste so out of dirty glasses. You should therefore take care, my worthy hostess, that your glasses be as clean as your wine is good; and that the company find at your house windows, tables, and floor always clean and polished; and so you will soon have guests enough stopping at your house."

The landlady took these words to heart. Scrubbing and polishing soon went on briskly; all the furniture was cleaned; and not even the least spot of dirt was tolerated any more. The people in the town, as soon as they heard this, came in numbers to drink good wine out of bright glasses in a room which was well cleaned and comfortable; and frequently so many guests arrived, that the hostess could scarcely accommodate them.

"See, my children," said she frequently to her sons and daughters after this, "what cleanliness does! It has made us well to do, and contented; while, through a want of cleanliness, we were once already almost brought to the brink of ruin!"

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