

A WISH.

By NORA GRAY.

If I might nestle to your side and soothe you when you're sad,
 If I might know your sorrows, dear, and make your life more glad,
 If I might kiss your tears away as quickly as they fall,
 Then I should be content, because I love you more than all.

If I might give my sight that better you might see,
 If I might still my voice that yours might sweeter be,
 If I might give my youth and life that brighter yours might shine,
 Then, dear, I should be happy, for your happiness is mine.



HOUSE MOTTOES.

By S. F. A. CAULFEILD.

PART I.

THE history of inscriptions of all kinds, whether of mottoes, or historical records, "graven with an iron pen and lead, in the rock" (Job xix. 24 and Jer. xvii. 1) carries us back in our researches even to prehistoric ages of the world. The Pelasgi left records in stone, and so did the Assyrians, of whose history we gather precious fragments from the "pen of iron," of which the visitors to the British Museum may find examples, in their study of the colossal, human-headed, and winged bulls therein preserved. In Egypt also, of which, without visiting the National Museum, you may see a wonderful example in the Obelisk, which once stood before the Temple of On, or, "House of the Sun." You may remember that Joseph's wife, Asenath, was a daughter of Potiphera, priest, or prince, of On, when Pharaoh set him (Joseph) over all the land of Egypt. Space in a brief article would fail me to speak of the inscriptions in Persia, on the still extant ruins of beautiful Palmyra, and in the far western world, where the history of the Nahnans, who settled in the gulf States of Mexico, of whom we know little more than the few inscriptions still to be deciphered on the beautiful specimens of art, displayed in the majestic ruins of their temples and palaces. Of the Greeks and Romans, the Saracens, and other nations I need make little remark; but turn to those with which we are more especially concerned. As revelations of human thought, characterising certain epochs of the world's history in divers lands and climes, such records must awaken the liveliest interest in any reflecting

mind, and often prove highly instructive. "He, being dead, yet speaketh," and those old-world men, whether dating back a few hundreds, or as many thousands of years, have left us lessons in a multitude of instances, from which we may learn wisdom.

Some of the earlier centuries have given evidence of a more naturally religious drift and bias of mind and feeling, than (at least, in our own country) has been exemplified in recent times, when the rule is said to obtain, that "the subject of religion, like that of politics, should be prohibited in our social reunions."

I have already given two articles in this paper, on the mottoes inscribed on sundials; these find a corresponding *animus* in those on bells, posey-rings, and monumental memorials, as well as in those of which I must specially give a selection of examples, on public and private houses, and ancient castles. It does one good to see the devout feeling exhibited by those who have gone before, and so far left us a lesson of Christian faith. But some are of another class, and are full of quaint humour, and of these I shall give a few examples likewise.

At Speke Hall, near Liverpool, there is an inscription of special interest on the frieze of the panelling in the hall, which is credited with having been transferred to its present position from Holyrood Palace, after the battle of Flodden Field.

"Slepe . not . teil . ye . hathe . considered .
 thow . hathe . spent . ye . day . past . if . thow
 have . well . don . thank . God . if . othways
 repent . ye."

Over the door of the oak drawing-room there is another admonition, which runs thus—

"The strengtest way to Heaven, is, God to love and serve above all thing."

In the old castle of Rockingham, Northants (the remains still existing of the original castle built by the Conqueror), the following lines may still be read on the roof of the hall—

"The house shal be preserved, and never will decay.

Where the Almighty God is honoured and served daye by daye."

In olden times, not only were mottoes placed without the walls of the mansions and feudal castles, but were, as you will observe, given a place within them; as again may be seen in Haddon Hall, Cheshire, where, in the banquet room, the words are inscribed—

"Drede God, and honor the King."

At Chicheley Hall near Newport Pagnel, Bucks, the seat of the Chester family, the following inscription will be seen on a beam in a large room—

"*Cave ne Deum offendas, cave ne proximum ledas, cave ne tua negligentia familiam descas, 1550.*"

which, being translated, means—

"Beware lest thou offend God; beware lest thou injure thy neighbours; beware lest by thy negligence thou neglect thy family."

There is an old Norman inscription at