

severe, and when he looked anxiously forward to scan the future, not even a gleam of light was seen along the black horizon.

As he stopped across the threshold of his dwelling, a pang shot through his heart, for the thought came—"How slight the present hold upon all these comforts." Not for himself, but for his wife and children was the pain.

"Father's come!" cried a glad little voice on the stairs the moment his footfall sounded in the passage, then quick, pattering feet were heard—and then a tiny form was springing into his arms. Before reaching the sitting-room above, Alice, the eldest daughter, was by his side, her arm drawn fondly within his, and her loving eyes lifted to his face.

"Are you not late, dear?" It was the gentle voice of Mrs. Freeman.

Mr. Freeman could not trust himself to answer. He was too deeply troubled in spirit to assume at the moment a cheerful tone, and he had no wish to sadden the hearts that loved him by letting the depression from which he was suffering become too clearly apparent. But the eyes of Mrs. Freeman saw quickly below the surface.

"Are you not well, Robert?" she inquired, tenderly, as she drew his large arm-chair toward the centre of the room.

"A little headache," he answered, with a slight evasion.

Scarcely was Mr. Freeman seated ere a pair of hands was busy with each foot, removing gaiter and shoes, and supplying their place with a soft slipper. There was not one in the household who did not feel happier for his return, nor one who did not seek to render him some kind office.

It was impossible, under such a burst of heart-sunshine, for the spirit of Mr. Freeman long to remain shrouded. Almost imperceptibly to himself gloomy thoughts gave place to more cheerful ones, and by the time tea was ready, he had half forgotten the fears which had so haunted him through the day.

But they could not be held back altogether, and their existence was marked during the evening by an unusual silence and abstraction of mind. This was observed by Mrs. Freeman, who, more than half suspecting the cause, kept from her husband the knowledge of certain matters about which she had intended to speak to him, for she feared they would add to his mental inquietude. During the evening she gleaned from something he said the

real cause of his changed aspect. At once her thoughts commenced running in a new channel. By a few leading remarks she drew her husband into conversation on the subject of home expenses and the propriety of restriction in various points. Many things were mutually pronounced superfluous and easily to be dispensed with, and before sleep fell soothingly on the heavy eyelids of Mr. Freeman that night, an entire change in their style of living had been determined upon—a change that would reduce their expenses at least one-half.

"I see a light ahead," were the hopeful words of Mr. Freeman as he resigned himself to slumber.

With renewed strength of mind and body, and a confident spirit, he went forth the next day—a day that he had looked forward to with fear and trembling. And it was only through this renewed strength and confident spirit that he was able to overcome the difficulties that loomed up, mountain high, before him. Weak dependency would have ruined all. Home had proved his tower of strength—his walled city. Strengthened for the conflict, he had gone forth again into the world and conquered in the struggle.

"I see light ahead," gave place to "The morning breaketh."—*Orange Blossoms.*

FERTILITY OF THE HOLY LAND.

No county of equal size, probably, contains greater inequalities of surface than Palestine—varying from the peaks of Lebanon, 10,000 feet above the sea level, to the plain of Jericho, 1,300 feet below it. Hence the Holy Land afforded almost every variety of vegetable productions; and when in its glory, populous and cultivated, and enjoying the smiles of Jehovah, it was not unworthy of the glowing rhapsody of Dr. Hamilton, the emphatic terms of which are almost all from the Bible:

"A better country than this, earth did not contain. It was 'a delightful' and 'a pleasant land;' 'a goodly heritage of the best of nations.' It was variegated and intersected with all the elements of sublimity and beauty—with whatever was bold and gentle. It was a wealthy place. Aromatic herbs covered its hills, and the fairest flowers decked its glens. The rose was in Sharon, and the lily in the valleys. The voice of the turtle was heard in the land. There roamed the vine, and there clustered the date. And there hung the

pomegranate. The cedar towered on the mountain, and the myrtle skirted their sides. No human hand could raise the clusters of Eshcol. The south winds passed over the gardens, causing the spices thereof to flow out. The seasons revolved in their variety, but with a blended sweetness. There was the upland breeze, in which the fir could wave its arms, and the softer air, in the olive unfolded its blossom. The sun smote not by day, nor the moon by night. The birds sung among the branches. There was balm in Gilead. The lignaloe drooped from the river bank. Lakes glistened in the landscape, and cooled the drouth. Beautiful for situation was Mount Zion. The cattle browsed on a thousand hills. The excellence of Carmel, and the glory of Lebanon set their pinnacles against the deep azure of Canaan's sky. The barns were filled with plenty—the vineyards distilled the pure blood of the grape. The fountain of Jacob was upon a land of corn and wine. The granaries were filled with the finest wheat. It flowed with milk and honey. Its heavens dropped fatness. At stated periods fell the early and latter rain. The land might be called Beulah. The distant glimpse of its prospects refreshed the dying eye of Moses: and of all thine earthly territory this is emphatically thy land, O, Immanuel."

This flowery description by no means applies to Palestine as it now is. Depopulated, neglected, misgoverned, it has become as desolate as it once was beautiful and fertile; and testified to truth the of God's word, "Woe be unto them when I depart from them."

TO SPOIL A DAUGHTER.—1. Be always telling her how pretty she is. 2. Instil into her mind a proper love of fine dress. 3. Accustom her to so much pleasure that she is not happy at home. 4. Allow her to read nothing but novels. 5. Teach her all the accomplishments, but none of the utilities of life. 6. Keep her in the darkest ignorance of the mysteries of housekeeping. 7. Initiate her into the principle that it is vulgar to do anything for herself. 8. To strengthen the latter belief, let her have a lady's maid. 9. And lastly, having given her such an education, marry her to a mustached bachelor, who is a clerk on a salary of \$250 a year.

It is better to be of the number of those who need relief, than of those who want heart to give it.