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'We have for quite a number of years taken the 'Messenger,' and we are well pleased with it.'—P. H. Hudson, Plympton, Man.



—From the 'Light of the World,' J. F. Shaw & Co., London.

'A certain maid heheld him, and said, this man was also with him,' and he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. Luke xxii, 56-7.

The Sifting of Peter.

In St. Luke's Gospel we are told
How Peter in the days of old
Was sifted;
And now, though ages intervene,
Sin is the same, while time and scene
Are shifted.

Satan desires us, great and small,
As wheat to sift us, and we all
Are tempted;
Not one, however rich and great,
Is by his station or estate
Exempted.

No house so safely guarded is
But he, by some device of his,

Can enter;
No heart hath armor so complete
But he can pierce with arrows fleet
Its centre.
For all at last the cock will crow
Who hear the warning voice, but go
Unheeding;
Till thrice and more they have denied
The Man of Sorrows crucified
And bleeding.

One look of that pale, suffering face
Will make us feel the deep disgrace
Of weakness;
We shall be sifted till the strength

Of self-conceit be changed at length
To meekness.
Wounds of the soul, though healed, will ache,
The reddening scars remain, and make
Confession;
Lost innocence returns no more;
We are not what we were before
Transgression.
But noble souls, through dust and heat,
Rise from disaster and defeat
The stronger;
And conscious still of the divine
Within them, lie on earth supine
No longer. —H. W. Longfellow.

Mr. Spurgeon and the Theatre

'Are there not many persons who find in the theatre precisely that kind of recreation and rest which is most useful for the discharge of their daily work?'

'It may be,' said Mr. Spurgeon, 'but I don't

know any of them. You see, I live in a world apart from all these things, and so do my people. We argue this way: Granting it perfectly safe and profitable for myself to go to the theatre, if I go, a great number of those will go to whom it will do positive harm. I will not be responsible for alluring

by my example into a temptation, which, but for my self-indulgence, they would entirely escape.

'I will give you an instance of how this works out. When I go to Monaco, the grounds of the gambling hell there are the most beautiful in the world. I never go