

THE BETTER LIFE

O Little Child of Bethlehem.

O Little Child of Bethlehem, the world had waited long,
Through ages drear, of hate and fear,
Of cruelty and wrong,
Ere burst upon its ravished ear,
The herald angels' song.

O Little Child of Bethlehem, thy coming bringeth peace,
Thy natal staf proclaims afar
The prisoners' release,
And all that heavy-laden are
Of sorrow find surcease.

O Little Child of Bethlehem, thy baby fingers hold
A boon to earth of dearer worth
Than frankincense or gold,
Wherewith the wise men hailed thy birth,
In heavenly lore foretold.

O Little Child of Bethlehem, be earth thy home today;
Let glad good-will, with naught of ill
Rule in all hearts, we pray;
The benediction bless us still,
Abide with us alway.

O Little Child of Bethlehem, be other o' all by blood,
Make all mankind, with willing mind,
One world-wide brotherhood.
So, earth shall be thy diadem,
O Little Child of Bethlehem.

—A. J. McKELWAY.

The Ministry of Sympathy.

We meet every day, says the Congregationalist, persons weighed with care and sorrow, of which they do not speak. Their business life is apart from the inner life. It is possible to know them and know nothing of their feelings. But observant eyes could not fail to see the shadow and to find the reason for it.

The young clerk with whom you trade every week lost his mother a few days ago. Your evening paper announced the fact, but it didn't tell, what her neighbors knew, that she was the light of the home; that her boys, sometimes discouraged because they got on so slowly in business, took heart again after they had talked with her about it. The young man's eyes glistened when a customer, just as he was turning away, pressed his hand and said he had heard how much his mother had been to her children.

The man who delivers groceries at your back door had a boy and girl ill with consumption for a long time. He has sent them both into a better climate, hoping to save their lives; but it is taking all he can earn, and he is afraid he cannot keep them there. A word of interest from you might give him new hope.

The policeman on your street has been laid up for three weeks, though you have not missed him. He is just taking up his duties again, hardly strong enough to go his round. It would brighten his walk to know that you had thought of him while he was ill and were glad to see him back.

The young woman next door to you has just become engaged. It seems to her that no event ever happened before of such importance, and that no two persons ever cared so much for one another as she and her lover do. But the affair took on an added importance when a neighbor came in to congratulate her. Her heart beat faster, her cheek took a brighter glow, and the world seemed more beautiful than ever. She is more ready to do a kindness to anyone than she ever was before, because you are glad in her happiness.

There will be times—perhaps have been already—when you will reach out your hand blindly in the darkness of a great shadow, hoping someone will clasp it. The rude or effusive grasp would bring you only added pain, but you know the delicate touch of genuine sympathy that carries healing with it. If you have known that unobtrusive ministry, give it to some other. If you haven't experienced it yet, learn to give it. Those who need it are close at hand. It may be you can change for them the color of their sky by a word, a touch, a look.

Help Others by Your Faith.

The friends who believe in us are the ones who help us. No one can tell just how much he owes to the eyes in which faith always shines, and to the voice which says steadily, "Of course you will succeed." Doubt crushes down, but trusts put wings on the heart. If you cannot help your friend in any other way, help him by your confidence.—Young People's Weekly.

Charity Thinketh No Evil.

The evil we think is as great and as hurtful, sometimes, as the evil we do. In fact it is the parent of all evil, for as a man thinketh in his heart so is he. Talk about new year resolutions! If we would resolve and determine to rid our hearts of evil thinking about our neighbors, and then faithfully adhere to the resolution, our happiness and usefulness would be increased ten fold. We were told, the other day, about a preacher who never has a good word to say about his brethren. On all occasions he parades the faults and failings of his brethren in the ministry without any mixture of mercy. On a recent occasion, in a company of ladies and gentlemen, this preacher was so severe in his criticism of the ministers of his acquaintance that a very intelligent lady turned aside and remarked that never again could she hear that man preach with any pleasure or profit. Thus it always is. Evil speaking reacts and hurts the speaker far worse than the person at whom the shafts of malice are aimed. This is a good time to uproot this sin so common and so prolific of suffering and loss. Every day it is nurtured in the heart it tightens its grip and makes it harder to subdue. But it can be overcome, and it must be, or as Christians we are undone. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh, and where the carcass is there the eagles will gather. The man who sees no good in his fellows, has very little within himself. Evil thinking fosters malice, envy, hatred; charitable thinking produces gentleness, purity, peace.—Charity and Children.

Will I be Missed?

As we hear, from day to day, of some great man or woman passing away, and note the remark, "How they will be missed," we begin to think, "Would I be missed?" Have we tried to live so that others would be better for having known us? Have we tried to leave a ray of sunshine in the lives of those with whom we came in contact? Have we helped a fallen brother rise? Have we a good supply of the seeds of kindness to scatter about the highways and byways? Have we been firm in the cause of right and justice? Have we improved every opportunity of serving the Master, remembering that in small things sometimes lie our greatest opportunities? Are we striving to live up to the best that is in us, to have our lamp always trimmed and burning brightly? If we are doing these things we will surely be missed, and, if we are not, we have failed, for one who has not tried it knows not the joy there is in such service.—Canadian Epworth Era.

"How thankful the flowers should be that they cannot fret and so spoil their beauty! Their whole life is a growth in simple gladness and sunny faith. If souls could be as serenely trustful, as well as faithful, what loveliness would character display!"

Legislation Asked by the Anti-Saloon League.

The State Anti-Saloon League will ask the Legislature to pass a law embracing the following features:

- (1) Prohibition of sale or manufacture of intoxicating liquors outside of incorporated towns. Forbids the sale of liquor in towns of less than 500 inhabitants. Forbids the manufacture of liquor in towns of 1,000 people or less.
- (2) Local option elections in incorporated towns or counties at any time of the year after 30 days notice upon petition of one-third of the voters, not oftener than once in two years.
- (3) In such elections the questions of the dispensary or the saloon or prohibition to be put as politicians may request.
- (4) Prohibition of the importation of liquor by any means into the prohibition territory.
- (5) After July 1, 1903, an applicant for license for the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors shall present with his application a petition in his behalf signed by a majority of the qualified voters of his municipality.

The strength of the blessed remembrance is good. The strength of a splendid fellowship is glorious, but the strength of knowing and realizing that your life is moving in the current of the purposes of God is the best and most glorious of all.—Dr. F. Cox.

CALAMITIES OF THE YEAR.

Enormous Losses of Life by Volcanic Eruptions, Earthquakes and Fires.

The year 1902 bids fair to be known in the records of time as the volcanic and earthquake year, and this continent has had its full share of the disastrous results of these convulsions. The disturbances began last May, and from that time to this there has not been a month in which they have not been active. In South America, Central America, the islands of the Caribbean Sea, Guatemala Mexico and Alaska there have been violent eruptions of volcanoes, involving large loss of life and widespread destruction of property, while many volcanoes, long supposed to be extinct, have made sympathetic efforts sufficiently threatening to cause general alarm in their vicinities. The eruption of Mont Pelee and Mont Souffriere were the most violent, burying the country for miles around in ashes and destroying 45,600 lives. To these must be added 7,625 more lost at other places, making a total of 52,225 victims of volcanic fury.

Volcanic eruptions have been accompanied by seismic disturbances in various parts of the world. Upon this continent Mexico and Guatemala have been the chief sufferers, 1,350 lives having been lost in those countries. Few disasters from this cause have occurred in Europe, but Turkestan, in Western Asia, has been shaken up three times. In February 5,000 lives were lost at Shamaker, in the Caucasus region; in September 1,100 in the same region, and in December 5,000 at Andijan, which is in the eastern part of Turkestan. In addition to these last ten times their number have been left homeless. The entire number of lives lost from this cause is 12,437.

Not satisfied with volcanic disturbances and earthquakes, nature has been busy with its storms in the shape of cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes every month in the year. They count 4,592 victims. Nature has, also, let loose floods, sweeping away 8,032 victims, China, as usual, being the principal sufferer. Fire, that other element of nature, claims a long list of victims, though it is hardly fair to charge to nature what clearly is attributable to human negligence and carelessness, as was shown, for instance, three times in this city, when the St. Luke's Hospital, the glucose works and the Lincoln Hotel burned, involving the loss of 37 lives. This year 1,593 persons have been reported as having lost their lives in this country by fire, but the real number must have been greater. In large fires in Europe 1,007 lives have been reported as lost. The number of casualties of this kind in Europe is much smaller than in this country, as they build more securely over there, and consequently have fewer destructive fires. The general trend of fire waste in this country is in the direction of increase, and the saddest feature of it all is that the loss of life by fire also increases every year.

From all other causes a little more than 80,000 persons have perished in 1902. While this is not as large a number of fatalities as has occurred in some other years, the destruction is phenomenal in that nearly two-thirds of it has been occasioned by volcanic and seismic disturbances.—Chicago Tribune.

"Some time ago my daughter caught a severe cold. She complained of pains in her chest and had a bad cough. I gave her Chamberlain's Cough Remedy according to directions and in two days she was well and able to go to school. I have used this remedy in my family for the past seven years and have never known it to fail," says James Prendergast, merchant, Annato Bay, Jamaica, West India Islands. The pains in the chest indicated an approaching attack of pneumonia, which in this instance was undoubtedly warded off by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It counteracts any tendency of a cold toward pneumonia. Sold by Hare & Son, Hood Bros., Cavanaugh & Benson.

Only 2,240 bicycle licenses have been taken out this year in Montreal, as against 3,755 last year and 6,347 in 1900.

Mother: If baby has a cough or cold, Always Croup Syrup will cure him and give all hands a good night's sleep. It is safe to give babies and you are not safe without a bottle in the house. 25 cents at Hood.

A BURMESE JUGGLER.

The Simple Method by Which He Put His Victim Asleep.

A Burmese juggler recently gave an exhibition of his powers on board a steamer proceeding from Moulmein to Rangun. The subject was a native servant of an officer, and the experiment took place on the deck of the ship. There was no collusion between the experimenter and the subject, for they were strangers to each other and were surrounded by the passengers and the crew. Indeed, so impressed with the juggler's powers were some of the lascars that in alarm they took to the rigging by way of securing their safety.

The subject was a native of Madras, and the illustration given was presumed to be one of the manner in which the dacoits of Burma render their victims insensible. Whether this be the case or not, the practice of the juggler was eminently successful. He seized the neck of the patient with his thumbs, one on each side. Then he compressed the soft parts of the neck below the jaw. In a few moments his subject became insensible and fell like a log on the deck of the ship. There was much alarm naturally created, but the juggler was equal to the occasion. A handkerchief was flapped across the face of the insensible man, and he quickly recovered, although for a time he was in a dazed condition.

What the juggler did was to compress the big carotid arteries which pass up one on each side of the neck and by thus limiting the supply of blood to the brain induce unconsciousness. This is an experiment which was certainly known to the ancient Greeks, and it bears a relationship to a theory of sleep which for long found favor in the eyes of physiologists, who believed that sleep was due to the withdrawal of blood from the brain.

Why Leaves Change Color.

A leaf is composed of a great number of cells, the walls of which are brown. In the spring and summer these cells are all filled with fluid, colored with minute grains of red, yellow and other pigments, which, mixed together, appear green. In the autumn, through the cold, oxidation and other changes take place in the leaf cells, destroying more or less rapidly certain of the color elements. As soon as one of these elements is gone the leaf no longer appears a normal green, but assumes the shade of the remainder of the color elements mixed together. When only the red element is left, the leaf is red; when the yellow alone remains the leaf is yellow, and when all the coloring matter has gone the leaf is brown.

Frost is not the sole cause of the changes of color, but it is an important cause. The more gradual changes of temperature from summer heat to winter cold the greater will be the variety and brilliancy in the coloring of the autumn leaves.—Woman's Home Companion.

Musical Insects.

More than 3,000 persons in Japan make a good living by breeding, training and selling what are known as "singing insects." Like crickets these insects are and their Japanese names are kusa-hibari and suzumushi.

The music which they make resembles that of a silver bell and, though rather monotonous, is very clear and sweet. The Japanese keep the insects in tiny bamboo cages and take quite as good care of them as Americans take of canaries or other pet birds. Some of them prefer the music which is made by a certain species of frog, known as kajika, and they are always ready to pay a high price for frogs which are well bred and well trained.

These they can generally obtain, according to a foreign journal, for several persons spend their entire time breeding and training frogs and insects, which they offer for sale every year at fairs held during June in Tokyo and other large cities.

Social Etiquette in Italy.

Mr. Luigi Villari in his book, "Italian Life in Town and Country," says that social etiquette is in some respects laxer, in others more rigid, than in this country.

When a hostess invites her friends to luncheon or dinner, she is not tortured by anxiety lest the number of men should not correspond exactly to that of the ladies. The latter do not get up from the table before the gentlemen, but the whole party rises almost immediately after dinner and adjourns to the drawing room, where nearly every one of both sexes smokes. At parties the servants hand round cigarettes with refreshments to ladies and gentlemen alike. At a ball a man is not obliged to stick to his partner through a whole dance. One or two turns are enough, after which he may favor some other dancer without causing offense to the first.

Wedding Card.

Mrs. James Augustus Orrell requests the honor of your presence at the marriage of her daughter, Maie Marceline, to Mr. James Herbert Benton, Jr., Wednesday evening January the seventh, nineteen hundred and three at a quarter past six o'clock 404 Caswell street, Kinston, N. C. At home after January 7th, No. 11 S. Wilmington street, Raleigh, N. C.

A monument is to be erected over the grave of the late Zebulon B. Vance in Riverside cemetery, Asheville. Captain Zebulon B. Vance, of the United States army, now stationed in the Philippines, has requested a prominent citizen of Asheville to have a suitable memorial erected over his father's grave, and this request will be carried out at an early date.

Mr. Thomas B. Heartt, of Raleigh, has been appointed stenographer for Senator F. M. Simmons to succeed Mr. Robert R. Boyd, of Reidsville, who resigned to take his former position as stenographer for Mr. Jas. H. Pou.

"Who lives next door to you?" asked little Edith of a caller. "Why do you ask?" inquired the other. "Because," replied Edith, "I heard mamma say you were next door to a crank."

This Will Interest Many.

Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.), the famous Southern blood purifier, quickly cures cancer, blood poison, pimples, boils, carbuncles, ulcers, eating sores, scrofula, eczema, aching bones, joints or back, rheumatism, catarrh, and all blood and skin troubles. B. B. B. heals every sore and makes the blood pure and rich. B. B. B. the finest blood purifier made. Druggists, \$1. Trial treatment free by writing Blood Balm Co., Atlanta Ga. For Sale in Smithfield. Free Sample at Hood Bros. In Selma by Hare & Son.

Do You Want An Almanac?

We are giving away quite a number of Turner's almanacs for 1903. If you want one come in and pay up your subscription to December 1, 1903 and we will give you one free. Only those who pay one year ahead are entitled to an almanac free. Please remember this.

A soul occupied with great ideas best performs small duties. The divinest views of life penetrate most clearly into the meanest emergencies.—James Martineau.

If a rooster were as big as his crow a whole family could dine on one for two weeks.

Some wives are so jealous they won't even allow their husbands to hug a delusion.

NOTICE.

I have for sale at my former home, eight miles south of Clayton, N. C., one eighteen horse-power engine and boiler, one Pratt gin with feeders and condenser, one elevator, one pair platform scales, one press, one hundred feet shafting and belting all in running order. I will give a good bargain to anyone wanting to buy. Write or come to see me. Joseph Parrish, Itiner, N. C.

A Special Offer.

We make the following special offer to HERALD readers:

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At druggists. The Five-Cent packet is enough for an ordinary occasion. The family bottle, 60 cents, contains a supply for a year.

Treasurer's Card.

Alex. Wiggs, Treasurer of Johnston County will be in Smithfield every
Monday and Saturday and Court Weeks.
Office in back room of the Bank of Smithfield. In his absence county orders will be paid at the Bank.

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