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THE  
BIBLE  
EMBLEM  
ANNIVERSARY  
BOOK



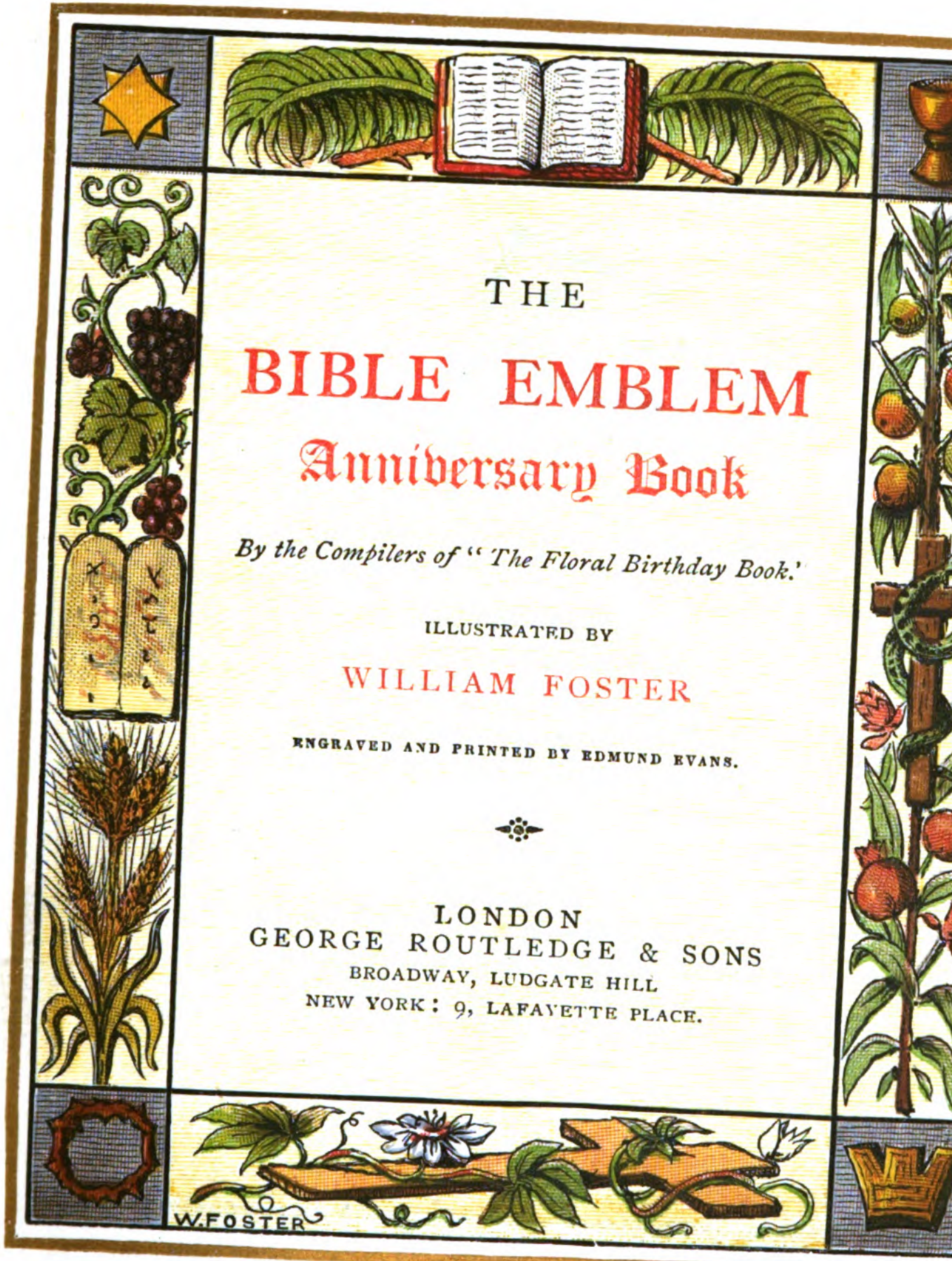






*The*  
*Bible Emblem*  
*Anniversary Book.*

Johnson P. 2590



THE  
**BIBLE EMBLEM**  
*Anniversary Book*

*By the Compilers of "The Floral Birthday Book."*

ILLUSTRATED BY

**WILLIAM FOSTER**

ENGRAVED AND PRINTED BY EDMUND EVANS.



LONDON  
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W.FOSTER

*Handwritten:* H. G. ... 22.





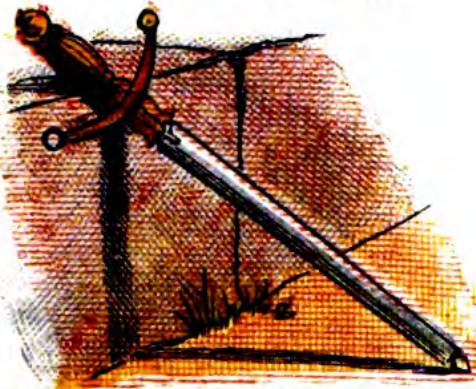
LONDON:  
PRINTED BY EDMUND EVANS,  
RACQUET COURT, FLEET ST.





# The Bible Emblem Anniversary Book

**JANUARY 1.**  
CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST.  
*A Sword—Penalty.*



*“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful,  
and sharper than any two-edged sword.”*

HEBREWS iv. 12

*The year begins with Thee,  
And Thou beginn'st with woe  
To let the world of sinners see  
That blood for sin must flow.*

*Thine infant cries, O Lord,  
Thy tears upon the breast  
Are not enough—the legal sword  
Must do its stern behest.*

KEBLE.

*“Of the oaks of Bashan have they made  
thine oars.”—EZEKIEL xxvii. 6.*

*When adverse winds and waves arise,  
And in my heart despondence sighs,  
When life its throng of care reveals,  
And weakness o'er my spirit steals,  
Grateful I hear the kind decree  
That—“as my day, my strength shall be.”*

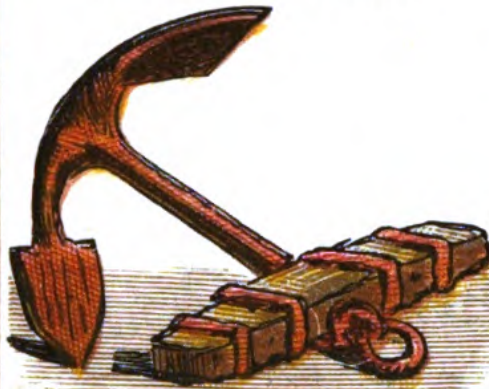
LYDIA SIGOURNEY.

**JANUARY 2.**  
*Oars of the oaks of Bashan  
Strength.*



### JANUARY 3.

*An Anchor—Hope.*



“Which hope we have as an anchor of t  
soul, both sure and steadfast.”—HEB. vi. 19.  
*Hope, as an anchor firm and sure, holds fa  
The Christian vessel, and defies the blast.  
Hope! nothing else can nourish and secure  
His new-born virtues, and preserve him pur  
Hope! let the wretch, once conscious of the jo  
Whom now despairing agonies destroy,  
Speak—for he can, and none so well as he—  
What treasures centre, what delights, in the  
Had he the gems, the spices, and the land  
That boasts the treasure, all at his command  
The fragrant grove, the inestimable mine,  
Were light, when viewed against one smile  
thine.*

COWPER.

“And he carved all the walls of the house  
round about with carved figures of cherubims  
and palm-trees.”—I KINGS vi. 29.

*Almighty God! when round Thy shrine  
The palm-tree's heavenly branch we twine,  
(Emblem of life's eternal ray,  
And love that fadeth “not away,”)  
We bless the flowers, expanded all,  
We bless the leaves that never fall,  
And trembling say, - “In Eden thus,  
“The Tree of Life may flower for us!”*

MOORE.

### JANUARY 4.

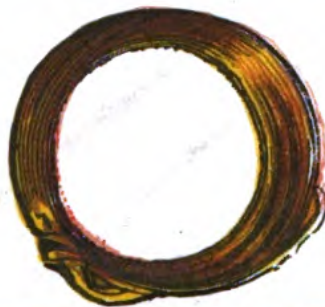
*Carved Palm-trees—Life & Love*



### JANUARY 5.

*Refined Gold.*

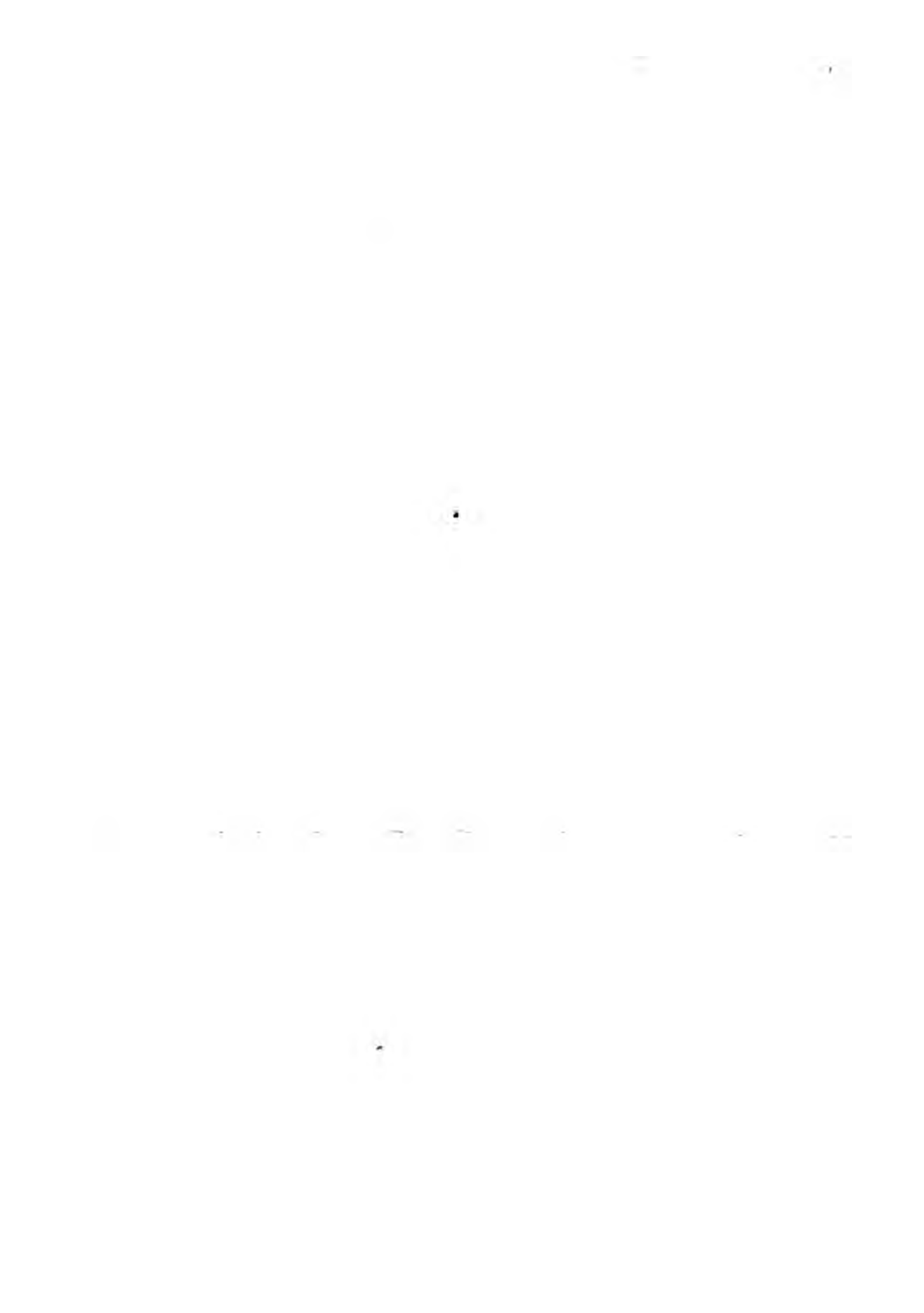
*Purification.*

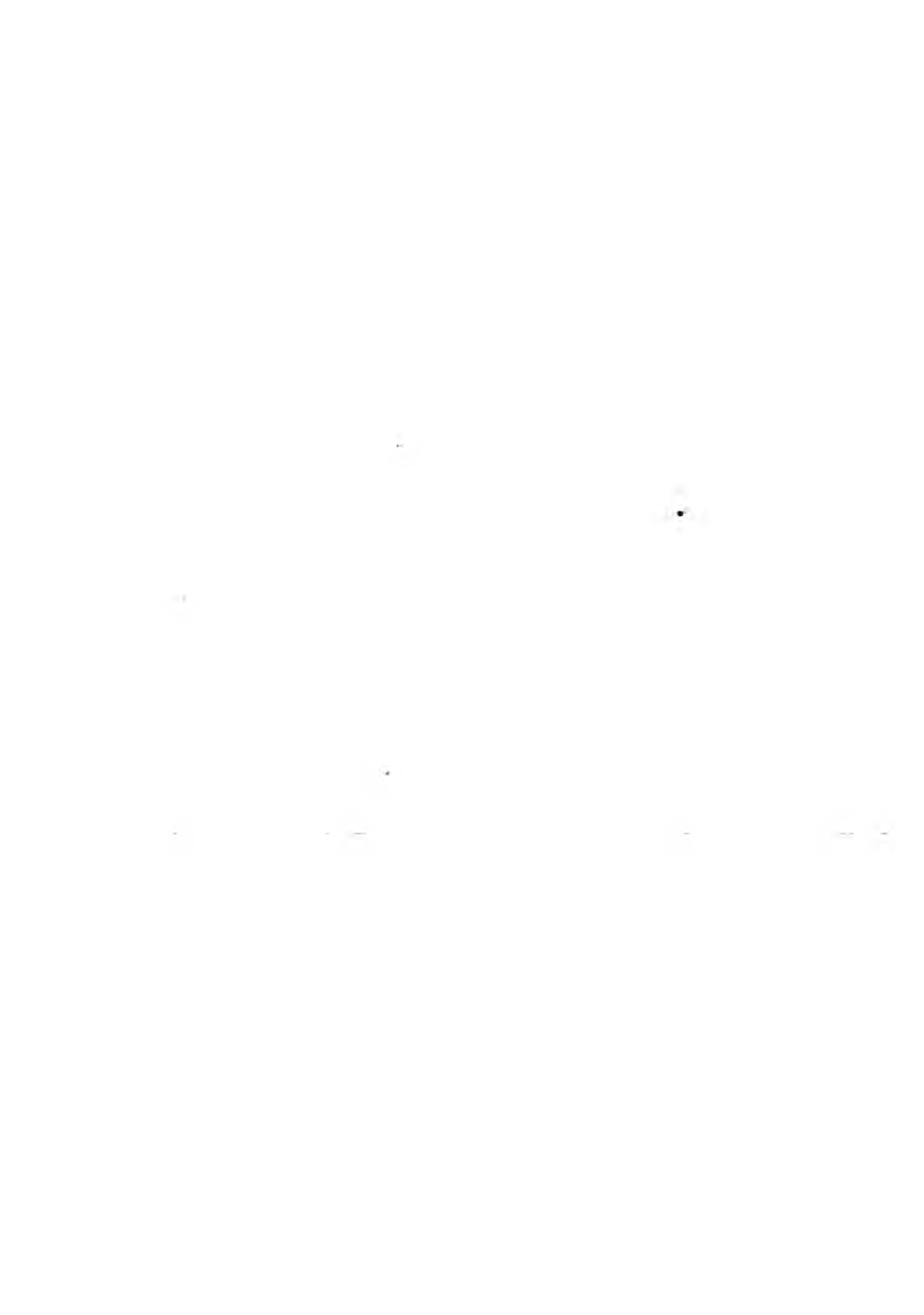


“And for the altar of incense refined go  
by weight.”—I CHRON. xxviii. 18.

*These through fiery trials trod,  
These from great affliction came;  
Now before the throne of God,  
Sealed with His eternal name.  
Clad in raiment pure and white,  
Victor-palms in every hand,  
Through their great Redeemer's might  
More than conquerors they stand.*

MONTGOMERY.





"And lo, the star which they saw in the East, went before them."—ST. MATT. ii. 9.

*It was my guide, my light, my all,  
It bade my dark forebodings cease;  
And thro' the storm and danger's thrall  
It led me to the port of peace,  
Now safely moored—my perils o'er—  
I'll sing first in night's diadem,  
For ever, and for ever more,  
The star! the star of Bethlehem!*

KIRKE WHITE.

**JANUARY 6.**  
THE EPIPHANY.  
*The Star—Light.*



**JANUARY 7.**

*Myrrh—Sanctification.*



"All Thy garments smell of myrrh."  
PSALM xlv. 8.

*Safe in Thy sanctifying grace,  
Almighty to restore:  
Borne onward—sin and death behind,  
And love and life before.  
O let my soul abound in hope,  
And praise Thee more and more!*

WARING.

"Smoking flax shall he not quench."

ST. MATT. xii. 20.

*God gives patience, love learns strength,  
And Faith remembers promise;  
And Hope itself can smile at length  
On other hopes gone from us.*

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

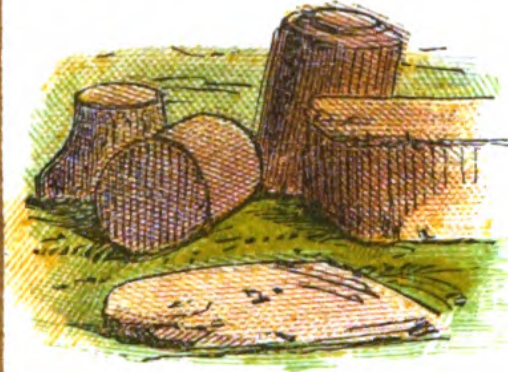
**JANUARY 8.**  
*Smoking Flax.*  
Unextinguished Hope.





## JANUARY 9.

*Hewed Stones—Prepared for use.*



“The king commanded, and they brought great stones—and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house.—1 KINGS v. 17.

*As wrapt and hidden in the stone's embrace  
The future statue lies yet undefined;  
Till the nice chisel clears the form designed  
The trunk, the moving limbs, the speaking  
face*

*Develops: so instruction's hand must trace  
The intellectual form which lies enshrined  
'Mid nature's rude materials; and the mind  
Invest with due proportion, strength, and  
grace.*

BISHOP MANTON.

“She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet.”—PROVERBS xxxi. 21.

*O winter, ruler of the inverted year!  
I love thee, all unlonely as thou seem'st;  
I crown thee king of intimate delight,  
Fireside enjoyment, homeborn happiness,  
And all the comforts that the lowly roof  
Of undisturbed retirement, and the hours  
Of long uninterrupted evening, know [sounds  
The sprightly lyre, whose treasure of sweet  
Beguile the night, and set a keener edge  
To female industry; the threaded steel  
Flies swiftly, and unfelt, the task proceeds.*

COWPER.

## JANUARY 10.

*Clothing of Scarlet—Comfort.*



## JANUARY 11.

*Thorns—Difficulty.*



“Cursed is the ground for thy sake—the thorn also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee.

GENESIS iii. 17.

*The path of sorrow, and that path alone  
Leads to the land where sorrow is unknown  
No traveller ever reach'd that bless'd abode  
Who found not thorns and briers in his road*

COWPER.





"The depths closed me round about, the  
weeds were wrapped about my head."

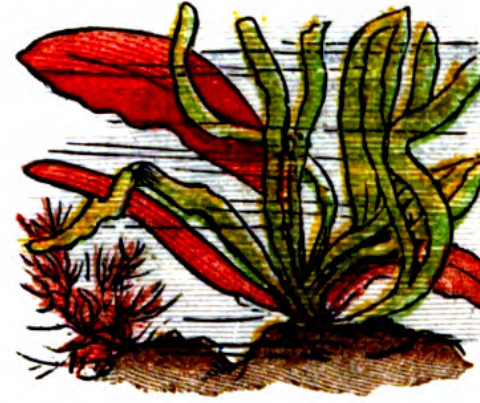
JONAH ii. 5.

*I thought awhile, then slumber came to me,  
And tangled all my fancy in her maze,  
And I was drifting on a raft at sea,  
The near all ocean, and the far all haze:  
Through the white-polished water sharks  
did glide,  
And up in heaven I saw no stars to guide.*

JEAN INGELOW.

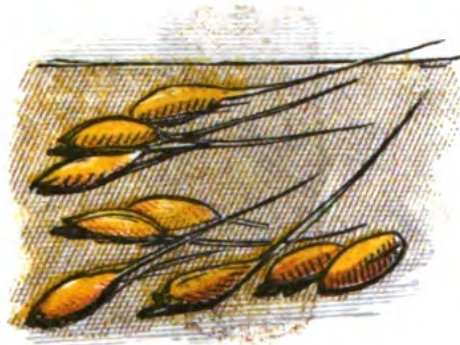
## JANUARY 12.

Seaweed—Entanglement.



## JANUARY 13.

*Precious Seed.*  
Moral Fruitfulness.



He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing  
precious seed, shall doubtless come again with  
rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

PSALM CXXVI. 6.

*Humanity*

*Is not a field where tares and thorns alone  
Are left to spring; good seed hath there  
been sown  
With no unsparing hand. Sometimes the  
shoot  
Is choked with weeds, or withers on a stone;  
But in a kindly soil it strikes its root  
And flourisheth, and bringeth forth abun-  
dant fruit.*

ROBERT SOUTHEY.

## JANUARY 14.

Stones with fair colours.  
Comfort.

"O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and  
not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones  
with fair colours."—ISAIAH liv. II.

*O comforter of God's redeemed,  
Whom the world does not see,  
What hand should pluck me from the flood  
That casts my soul on Thee?  
Who would not suffer pain like mine,  
To be consoled like me?*

WARING.



## JANUARY 15.

*Fir Trees of Senir—Excellence.*



"They have made Thy ship boards of the fir trees of Senir."—EZEKIEL xxvii. v.

*"We measure not his mind; we cannot tell  
What lyeth under, over, or beside  
The test we put him to; he doth excel  
We know, where he is tried."*

JEAN INGELOW.

"The first foundation was jasper."

REV. xxi. 19.

## JANUARY 16.

*Jasper—Support.*

*Nothing useless is, or low;  
Each thing in its place is best;  
And what seems but idle show  
Strengthens and supports the rest.*

*Build to day, then, strong and sure,  
With firm and ample base;  
And ascending and secure,  
Shall to-morrow find its place.*

LONGFELLOW.



## JANUARY 17.

*Grass of the Field.  
Transitoriness.*



"Wherefore if God so clothed the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"—ST. MATT. vi. 30.

*Between two breaths what crowded mysteries lie  
The first short gasp, the last and long drawn  
sigh?*

*Like phantoms painted on the magic slide,  
Forth from the darkness of the past we glide,  
As living shadows for a moment seen  
In airy pageant on the eternal screen,  
Traced by a ray from one unchangeing flame,  
Then seek the dust and stillness whence we  
came.*

WENDELL HOLMES,





"Her clothing is of wrought gold."

PSALM xlv. 13.

*The king's fair daughter's beauteous soul,  
All inward graces fill;  
Her raiment is of purest gold,  
Adorned with costly skill,  
She, in her nuptial garments drest  
With needles richly wrought,  
Attended by her virgin train,  
Shall to the king be brought.*

TATE & BRADY'S  
Version of the Psalms.

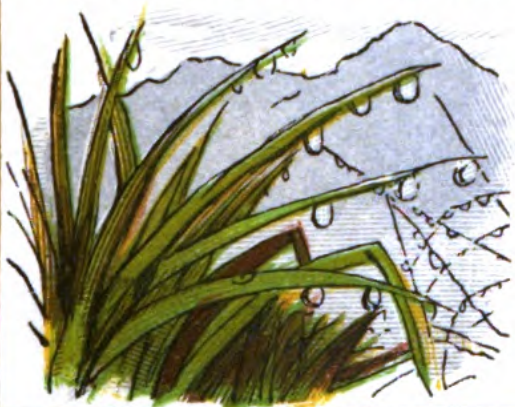
JANUARY 18.

*Clothing of wrought gold.  
Grandeur (of the Church).*



JANUARY 19.

*The Dew of Hermon—Concord.*



"As the dew of Hermon."—PSALM cxxxiii. 3.

*Poor indeed, thou must be, if around thee  
Thou no ray of light and joy can'st throw;  
If no silken cord of love hath bound thee  
To some little world through weal and woe;  
If no dear eyes thy fond love can brighten;  
No fond voices answer to thine own;  
If no brother's sorrow thou canst lighten  
By daily sympathy and gentle tone.*

HARRIET LIST.

"Consider the ravens."—ST. LUKE xii. 24

*All nature a sermon may preach thee;  
The birds sing thy murmurs away,—  
The birds which, nor sowing, nor reaping,  
God fails not to feed day by day;  
And He, who the creature doth cherish,  
Will He fail thee, and leave thee to perish?  
Or art thou no better than they?*

Translated by the Author of  
"Chronicles of the Schönberg Cotta Family."

JANUARY 20.

*The Ravens—Divine care.*





## JANUARY 21.

*Seeds by the wayside.*  
Indifference.



“Some seeds fell by the wayside.”  
ST. MATT. xiii. 4

*We can never be too careful  
What the seed our hands shall sow;  
Love from love is sure to ripen,  
Hate from hate is sure to grow.  
Seeds of good or ill we scatter  
Heedlessly along our way:  
But a glad or grievous fruitage  
Waits us at the harvest day.*

ANON

“He gibeth snow like wool: He scattereth  
the hoarfrost like ashes.—He sendeth out His  
word, and melteth them.”

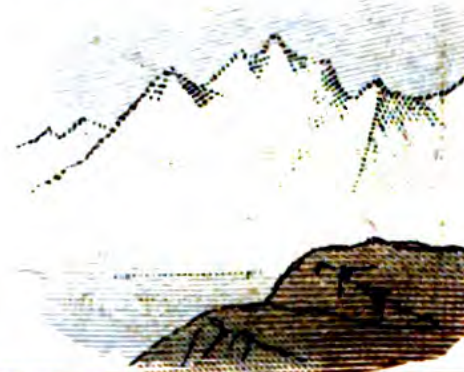
PSALM cxlvii. 16-18.

*And the widows of Ashur are loud in their  
wail,  
And the idols are broke in the temples of  
Baal,  
And the might of the Gentiles, unsmote by  
the sword,  
Hath vanished like snow in the glance of the  
Lord.*

BYRON.

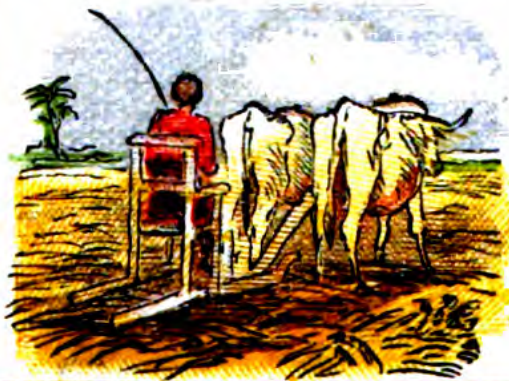
## JANUARY 22.

*Snow.*  
Instability of earthly things.



## JANUARY 23.

*Beaten Corn—Tribulation.*



“And the priest shall burn the memorial  
it, part of the beaten corn thereof.”

LEVITICUS ii. 1

*What, if thou ALWAYS suffer tribulation,  
And if thy Christian warfare NEVER ceas  
The gaining of the quiet habitation  
Shall gather thee to everlasting peace.*

*The captive's oar may pause upon the galle  
The soldier sleep beneath his plumed crest,  
And peace may fold her wings o'er hill an  
valley,  
But thou, O Christian, must not take t  
rest.*

ANON.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes the need for transparency and accountability in financial reporting.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. It includes a detailed description of the experimental procedures and the tools used for data collection.

3. The third part of the document presents the results of the study. It includes a series of tables and graphs that illustrate the findings of the research. The data shows a clear trend in the relationship between the variables being studied.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the implications of the findings and provides recommendations for future research. It suggests that further studies should be conducted to explore the underlying mechanisms of the observed phenomena.

5. The final part of the document is a conclusion that summarizes the key findings and reiterates the importance of the research. It also includes a list of references to the sources used in the study.



"For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."—ST. JAMES iv. 14.

*See yonder cloud along the West,  
In gay fantastic splendour drest:  
Fancy's bright visions charm the eye,  
Sweet fairy bowers in prospect lie,  
And blooming fields smile from the sky,  
Decked in the hues of even:  
But short its evanescent stay,  
Its brilliant masses fade away,  
The breeze floats off its visions gay,  
And clears the face of heaven.*

ESTHER BEECHER.

## JANUARY 24.

*A Vapour—Ebanescence.*



## JANUARY 25.

CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL.

*The Pen of a Ready Writer.*

*Inspiration.*



"My tongue is the pen of a ready writer."

PSALM xlv. 1.

*We see, within thy porches, Paul  
Uplift the arm, the voice command,  
Whose heaven-taught zeal, whose earnest  
call*

*Could rouse or paralyze the land—  
Though gold and pomp were his and more,  
For God he spurned the glittering gem,  
And cast him prostrate, all before  
Thy gates Jerusalem!*

SINCLAIR.

"His meat was locusts and wild honey."

ST. MATT. iii. 4.

*His drink the living water from the rock;  
The milky dams supplied his board and lent  
Their kindly fleece to baffle winter's shock;  
And he though oft with dust and sweat  
besprent,  
Did guide and guard their wandering's  
wheresoe'er they went.*

BEATTIE.

## JANUARY 26.

*Wild Honey—Frugality.*



## JANUARY 27.

*Agates—Strength and Purity.*



“It will make thy windows of agates.”

ISAIAH liv.

— *She was a hidden strength  
Which you remember not.*  
— *What hidden strength,  
Unless the strength of heaven?—  
I mean—a hidden strength,  
Which, if heaven gave it, may be term  
her own;  
'Tis chastity, my brother, chastity.*

MILTO

## JANUARY 28.

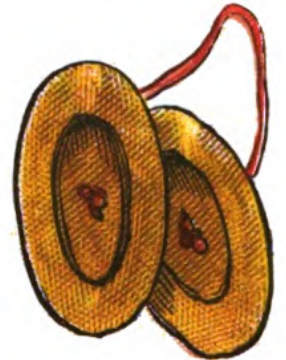
“Praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals.”

PSALM cl. 5.

*High Sounding Cymbals—Pra*

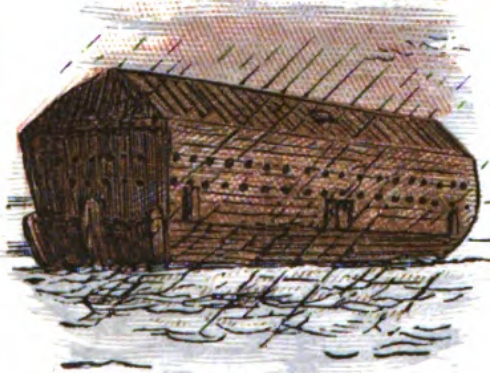
“*Praise Him for all the wond'rous things He  
hath done;  
Praise Him on harps, praise Him on cymbals  
of sound!  
With sounding trumpet, timbrel, and organ,  
and chord,  
Praise Him! let every spirit praise the  
Lord!*”

ALFRED AUSTIN.



## JANUARY 29.

*The Ark—Security.*



“Make thee an ark of gopher wood.”

GENESIS vi.

*Thou Framer of the light and dark,  
Steer through the tempest, Thine own ark,  
Amid the howling wintry sea,  
We are in port, if we have Thee.*

KEBL





"The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man seeking goodly pearls."

ST. MATT. xiii. 45.

*Court-virtues bear like gems, the highest rate,  
Born where heaven's influence scarce can  
penetrate:*

*In life's low vale the sort the virtue like,  
They please as beauties, here as wonders  
strike*

*Thro' the same sun, with all-diffusive rays,  
Blush in the rose, and in the diamond blaze,  
We prize the effort of the stronger power,  
And justly set the gem above the flower.*

POPE.

**JANUARY 30.**

*Goodly Pearls—Worth.*



**JANUARY 31.**

*The Net—Patient Hope.*



"At Thy word I will let down the net."

ST. LUKE V. 5.

*The live-long night we've toil'd in vain,  
But at Thy gracious word  
I will let down the net again:—*

*"Do thou, Thy will, O Lord!"*

\* \* \* \* \*  
*There is a stay—and we are strong;  
Our Master is at hand,  
To cheer our solitary song,  
And guide us to the strand.*

KEBLE.

"And this is the offering—Shittim wood."

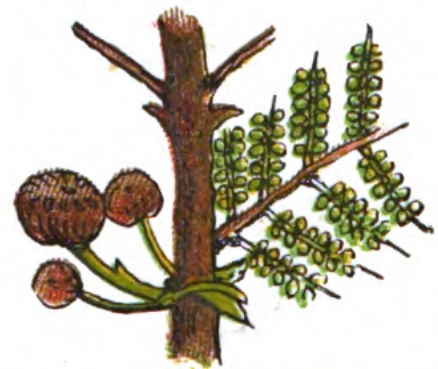
EXODUS xxv. 3-5.

*O perfect love that dureth long;  
Dear growth, that shaded by the palms,  
And breathed on by the angels song,  
Blooms on in heaven's eternal calms.*

JEAN INGELow.

**FEBRUARY 1.**

*Shittim Wood—Durability.*





## FEBRUARY 2.

PURIFICATION OF THE VIRGIN.

*Hyssop—Purification.*



“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean.”—PSALM li. 7.

*So be with us, ever with us,  
In our daily toil and strife;  
Purify Thou all the sources  
Of our erring daily life!  
Do Thou guard it from the Tempter  
With Thy white wings, gentle Dove  
In that sure and safe protection  
Bloom the flowers of sweet affection,  
And the fruits of truth and love.*

ADA CAMBRIDGE

“Some (seeds) fell upon stony places,”

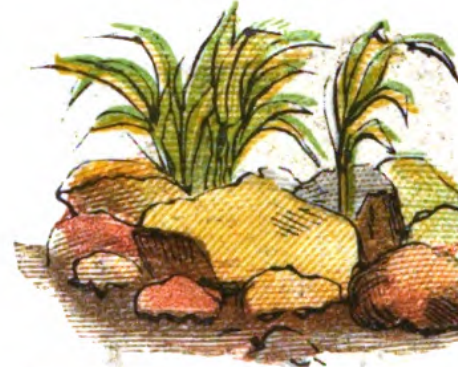
ST. MATT. xiii. 5.

*In vain are reason's dews when faith is dead,  
And meek grace sleeps 'neath doubt's unmelting snows,  
I can no more. The Paraclete hath fled;  
Through his parched heart e'en prayer no longer flows,  
By heaven may yet the miracle be wrought:  
But human ways are weak, and words are nought.”*

ALFRED AUSTIN.

## FEBRUARY 3.

*Seeds upon Stony Places  
Instability.*



## FEBRUARY 4.

*Sapphire—Shining Worth.*



“Their polishing was of sapphire.”

LAMENTATIONS iv.

*For I will raise in her bright memory,  
Lost now on earth, a lasting monument,  
And graven on it shall recorded be  
That all her rays to light mankind were  
spent;  
And I will sing albeit none heedeth me,  
On her exemplar being still intent:  
While in men's sight shall stand the record  
thus:—*

“So long as she did last she lighted us.”

JEAN INGELBACH





## FEBRUARY 5.

*The Dove—Sanctity,*

“He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove,”—ST. MATT. iii. 16.

*Lord send forth Thy light and truth to  
lead me  
In the way wherein Thy saints precede me,  
With Thy holy spirit for my guide;  
Let me choose the path of self-denial,  
Shunning no sharp cross or bitter trial,  
Which my Saviour's steps have sanctified.*

C. J. SPITTA.



## FEBRUARY 6.

*The Mantle of Elijah.  
A Sacred Gift.*

“He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him.”—2 KINGS ii. 13.

*—While Elijah's burning wheels prepare  
From Carmel's height to sweep the fields of  
air,  
The prophet's mantle, 'ere his flight began  
Dropt on the world a sacred gift to man.*

CAMPBELL.



“Hide thyself by the brook Cherith, and thou shalt drink of the brook.”

1 KINGS xvii. 3-4.

*What then? Why then another pilgrim song,  
And then, a hush to rest, divinely granted;  
And then, a thirsty stage (ah me, so long!)  
And then a brook, just where it most is  
wanted.*

CREWDSON.

## FEBRUARY 7.

*The Brook Cherith.  
The Loving Kindness of God.*



## FEBRUARY 8.

*The Scarlet Line—Faith.*



“And she bound the scarlet line in the window.”—JOSHUA ii. 21.

*My faith hath misty hair—and eyes,  
You cannot fix their changing hue:  
But all the world within them lies,  
And all the soul looks through.  
Her voice doth make divinely sweet  
Each song of sorrow which she sings,  
And saddest wisdom fills replete  
With heavenly comfortings.*

ISA CRAIG.

## FEBRUARY 9.

*The Pearl of great price.  
The Gospel.*

“One pearl of great price.”  
ST. MATT. xiii. 46.

*Behold the sun how bright  
From yonder East he springs,  
As if the soul of life and light  
Were breathing from his wings.*

*So bright the gospel broke  
Upon the souls of men;  
So fresh the dreaming world awoke  
In truth's full radiance then.*

MOORE.



## FEBRUARY 10.

*Bread cast upon the waters.  
A Deed of Faith.*



“Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days.”

ECCLESIASTES xi.

*Go, to the world return, nor fear to cast  
Thy bread upon the waters, sure at last  
In joy to find it after many days;  
The work be thine, the fruit thy children  
part:  
Choose to believe, not see: sight tempts the  
heart.*

KEBLE





## FEBRUARY 11.

*"Fine linen with broidered work from Egypt."* *Fine Linen with broidered work.*  
EZEKIEL xxvii. 7. Excessive Ornament.

*I choose not her, my heart's elect,  
From those who seek their Maker's shrine  
In gems and garlands proudly decked,  
As if themselves were things divine.  
No—Heaven but faintly warms the breast  
That beats beneath a broidered veil;  
And she who comes in glittering vest  
To mourn her frailty, still is frail.*

MOORE.



## FEBRUARY 12.

*A Helmet—Salvation.*



*"Take the helmet of salvation,"*  
EPHESIANS vi. 17.

*Salvation, O salvation!  
The joyful sound proclaim,  
Till each remotest nation  
Has learnt Messiah's name.*

BISHOP HEBER.

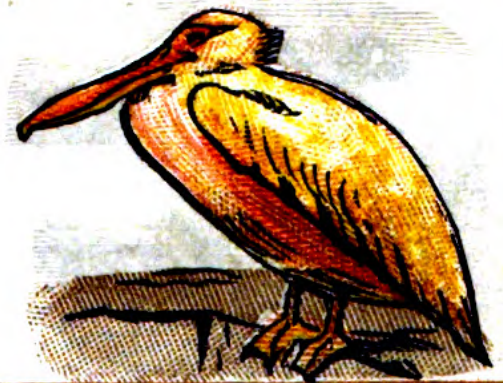
## FEBRUARY 13.

*"I am like a pelican in the wilderness."*  
PSALMS cii. 6.

*There are who sigh that no fond heart is theirs,  
None loves them best—O vain and selfish sigh!  
Out of the bosom of His love He spares—  
The Father spares the son for thee to die:  
For thee He died—for thee He lives again;  
O'er thee He watches in His boundless reign.*

KEBLE

*A Pelican in the Wilderness*  
Loneliness.











## FEBRUARY 17.

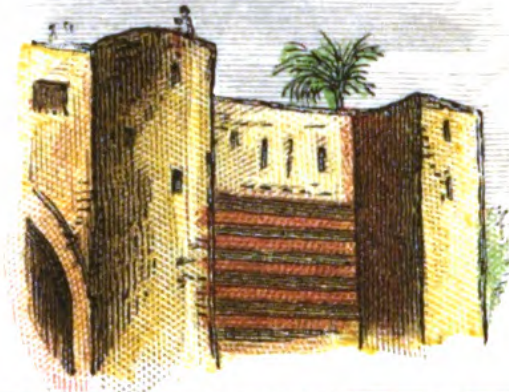
*A Strong Tower—Safety.*

*“The name of the Lord is a strong tower ;  
the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.*

PROVERBS xviii. 10.

*Why should I fear the darkest hour,  
Or tremble at the tempter's power?  
Jesus vouchsafes to be my tower.*

JOHN NEWTON.



## FEBRUARY 18.

*The Tree of Knowledge.  
Temptation.*



*“Of the tree of the knowledge of good and  
evil, thou shalt not eat of it.”—GEN. ii. 17.*

*See where the tree its richest foliage wears,  
And golden fruit its laden branches bears ;  
Behold, conceal'd beneath its shade, sidelong  
The glossy serpent, with its poisonous tongue ;  
The simple boy, far from his father's care,  
Is well-nigh taken with the gilded snare.  
The tempting fruit, outspread before his*

*eyes,  
Fills him with rapture, and complete  
surprise ;  
No hidden dangers will he wait to see,  
But onward hastens to the fatal tree.*

HOLMES.

## FEBRUARY 19.

*A Staff.—Pilgrimage.*

*“With my staff I passed o'er this Jordan.”*

GENESIS xxxii. 10.

*How long, O Lord, in weariness and sorrow,  
Must Thy poor people tread the pilgrim road ;  
Mourning to-day, and fearing for to-morrow,  
Finding no place of rest, no sure abode ?*

*From the GERMAN.*



## FEBRUARY 20.

*Gold of Ophir—Solid Worth,*



*“But where shall wisdom be found?—It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir.”*

JOB xxviii. 12-13

*Noble he was, contemning all things mean,  
His truth unquestioned, and his soul serene:  
Shame knew him not, he dreaded no disgrace:  
Truth, simple truth, was written in his face.*

CRABBE.

*“Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee.”—GENESIS iii. 18.*

*God's ways are not as our ways, His thoughts are not as ours:*

*He wounds us sore with cruel thorns, where we have stooped for flowers;*

*But oh! 'tis from the oft-pierced heart those precious drops distil,*

*That many a life, else all unblest, with healing balm shall fill;*

*Then give, O give the power to those who pray it so may be,*

*But I would choose to have the thorns, with Thee, dear Lord, with Thee.*

ANON.

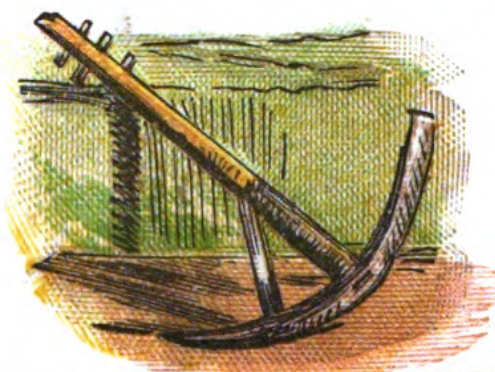
## FEBRUARY 21.

*Thistles—Sharpness.*



## FEBRUARY 22.

*The Mattock—Industry.*



*“And on all hills that shall be digged with the mattock, there shall not come thither the seed of briers and thorns.”—ISAIAH vii. 25.*

*Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,  
Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe he broke;*

*How jocund did they drive their team a-field,  
How bowed the woods beneath their sturdy stroke!*

*Let not ambition mock their useful toil,  
Their homely joys, and destiny obscure,  
Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile  
The short and simple annals of the poor.*

GRA





## FEBRUARY 23.

Goads—Words of Wisdom.

“The words of the wise are as goads.”  
ECCLESIASTES xii. 11.

*O words, sweet words! A blessing comes  
Softly from kindly lips;  
Tender endearing tones, that break  
The spirits drear eclipse.  
Oh! are there not some cherished tones  
In the deep heart enshrined.  
Uttered but once—they passed—and left  
A track of light behind?*

ANNA SHIPTON.

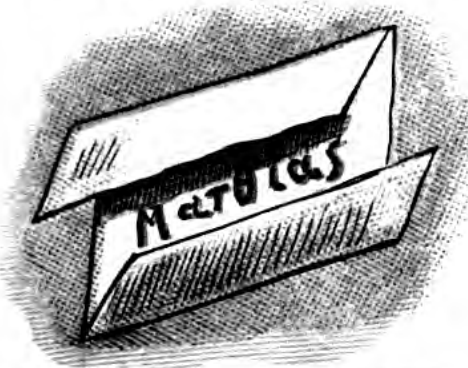


## FEBRUARY 24.

ST. MATTHIAS' DAY.

The Lot—Overruling Providence.

“And they gave forth their lots, and the lot fell upon Matthias.”—ACTS i. 26.



*Thou can'st not to thy place by accident,  
It is the very place God meant for thee;  
And should'st thou there small scope for  
action see,  
Do not for this give room to discontent.*

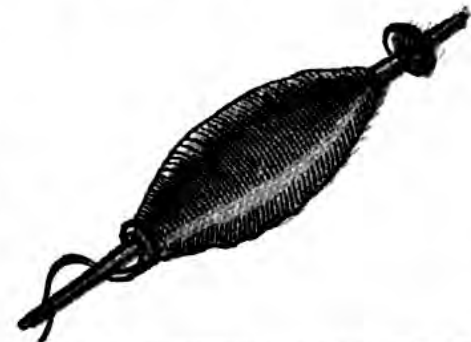
FRENCH.

“She layeth her hands to the spindle.”  
PROVERBS xxxi. 19.

*Close at her father's side was the gentle  
Evangeline seated,  
Spinning flax for the loom, that stood in the  
corner behind her.  
Silent awhile were its treadles, at rest was  
its diligent shuttle,  
While the monotonous drone of the wheel,  
like the drone of a bagpipe,  
Followed the old man's song, and united the  
fragments together.*

LONGFELLOW.

FEBRUARY 25.  
The Spindle—Female Industry.





## FEBRUARY 26.

*A Candle on a Candlestick  
Light.*



“Neither do men light a candle, and put  
under a bushel, but on a candlestick.”  
ST. MATT. v. 15

*Still shines the light of holy lives,  
Like star-beams over doubt ;  
Each sainted memory, Christ-like drives  
Some dark possession out.*

\* \* \* \* \*  
*As on thy task-field closed the day  
In golden-skied decline,  
His angel met thee on the way,  
And lent his arm to thine.*

WHITTIER.

## FEBRUARY 27.

“So he drove out the man ; and he placed  
cherubims and a flaming sword, which turned  
every way.”—GENESIS iii. 24.

*A Flaming Sword—Punishment*

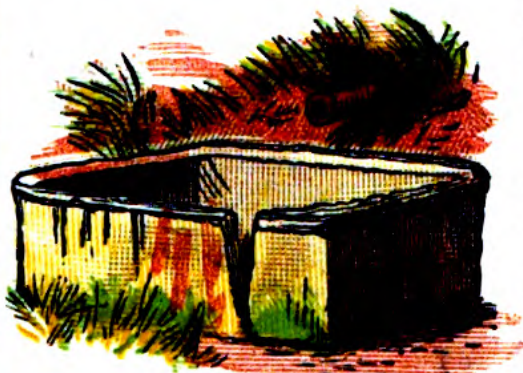
*Therefore in sight of man bereft,  
The happy garden still was left ;  
The fiery sword that guarded shew'd it too,  
Turning all ways, the world to teach,  
That though as yet beyond our reach,  
Still in its place the tree of life and glory  
grew.*

KEBLE.



## FEBRUARY 28.

*Broken Cisterns—Earthly Aids.*

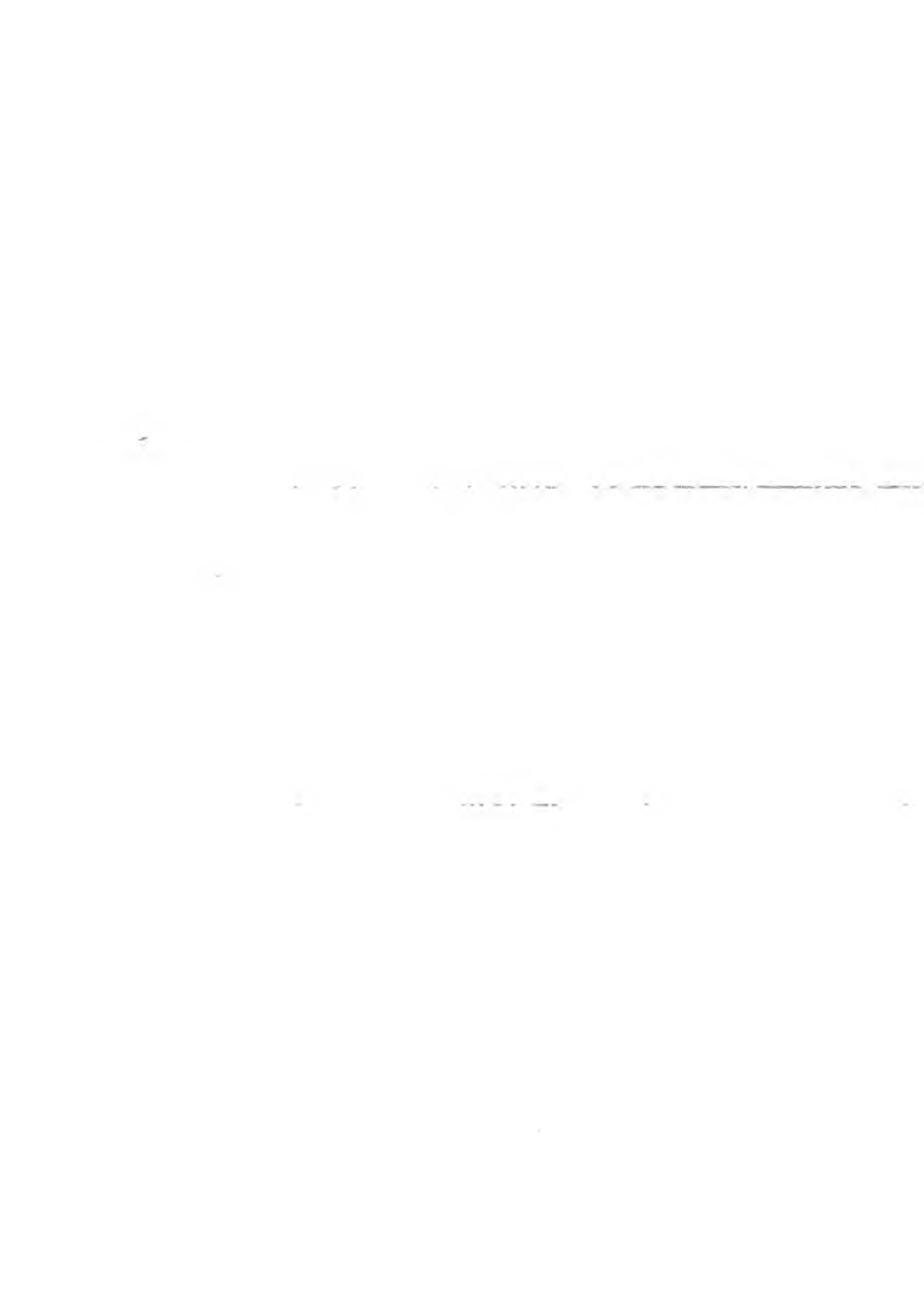


“They have forsaken Me, the fountain  
living waters, and have hewn themselves out  
cisterns, broken cisterns, which can hold no  
water.”—JEREMIAH ii. 13.

*Sighing o'er faded flowers and cisterns  
broken ;  
Gazing on setting suns, that rise no more ;  
Listening to sad farewells, and last words  
spoken  
By loved ones leaving us on Jordan's shore !*

*From the GERMAN.*





## FEBRUARY 29.

Tents—Wanderings.

“Such as dwell in tents.”

GENESIS iv. 20.

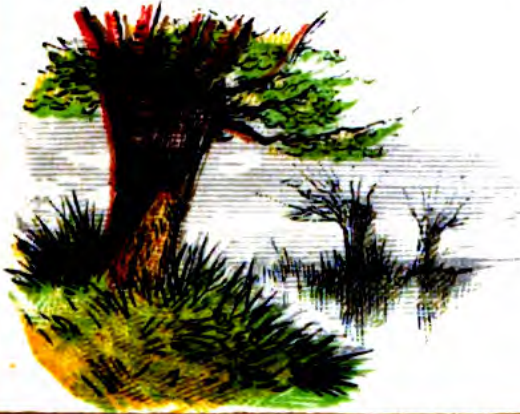
*So wanderers ever fond and true,  
Look homeward through the evening sky;  
Without a streak of Heaven's soft blue,  
To aid affections dreaming eye.*

KEBLE.



## MARCH 1.

*Willows by the Watercourses.  
Contentment.*



“They shall spring up as willows by the water courses.”—ISAIAH xlv. 4.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Though the rudest hand assail her,  
Patiently she droops awhile;  
But when showers and breezes hail her,  
Wears again her willing smile.  
Thus I learn contentment's power,  
From the slighted willow bower,  
Ready to give thanks, and live  
On the least that Heaven may give.*

KEBLE.

## MARCH 2.

Rubies—Domestic Virtue.

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.—PROVERBS xxxi. 10.

*A stream that flows through all the earth,  
With mighty depths, and clear,—  
Is the sweet life and love of home,  
Its every sacred tie,  
Its holy, clinging hopes and cares  
That never fade or die;  
Its strong, undoubting truthfulness,  
Which is love's sanctity.*

ADA CAMBRIDGE.



### MARCH 3.

*Grass with Reeds and Rushes.*  
Utility.



“Grass with reeds and rushes.”

ISAIAH xxxv. 7

*Let us then be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate ;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labour, and to wait.*

LONGFELLOW

“There came a woman unto Him, having an  
alabaster box of very precious ointment.”  
ST. MATT. xxvi. 7.

*I bring my box of alabaster,  
Of earthly loves I break the shrine,  
And pour affections, purer, vaster,  
On that dear head—those feet of Thine.*

*The joys I prized, the hopes I cherished,  
The fairest flowers my fancy wove ;  
Behold my fondest idols perished,  
Receive the incense of my love !*

FORD.

### MARCH 4.

*An Alabaster Box—Devotion*



### MARCH 5.

*Harps upon the Willows.*  
Sadness.



“We hanged our harps upon the willows.”  
PSALM cxxxvii. 2

*While sadly we gazed on the river  
Which roll'd on in freedom below,  
They demanded the song ; but, oh never,  
That triumph the stranger shall know  
May this right hand be wither'd for ever,  
Ere it string our high harp for the foe*

*On the willow that harp is suspended,  
O Salem ! its sound should be free ;  
And the hour when thy glories were ended  
But left me that token of thee ;  
And ne'er shall its soft tones be blended  
With the voice of the spoiler by me.*

BYRON





“Behold the ships, yet are they turned about  
with a very small helm; even so the tongue.”  
ST. JAMES iii. 4-5.

*Words! What are words? an idle breath,  
That floateth lightly by;  
Smiles on the lip that uttered them,  
In tones of melody.  
Yet have they strength to wound or bless,  
Lightly as they are flung;  
Still writ upon some human heart,  
Told by an angel's tongue.*

ANNA SHIPTON.

## MARCH 6.

*The Helm of a Ship.  
The Tongue.*



## MARCH 7.

*Paper Reeds—Scholarship,*



“The paper reeds by the brooks.”

ISAIAH xix. 7.

\* \* \* \* \*  
*Aid the dawning, tongue and pen;  
Aid it, hopes of honest men!  
Aid it, paper—aid it, type,—  
Aid it, for the hour is life,  
And our earnest must not slacken into play.  
Men of thought, and men of action,  
Clear the way!*

CHARLES MACKAY.

“My cup runneth over.”

PSALM xxiii. 5.

*Thou spread'st a table in my sight,  
Thy unction grace bestoweth;  
And oh! what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth.*

SIR HENRY BAKER.

## MARCH 8.

*A Cup—A Blessing.*





## MARCH 9.

*A Scourge of Small Cord.  
Chastisement.*



“When he had made a scourge of small cords he drove them all out of the temple.”

ST. JOHN II. 15.

*O for a faith that will not shrink,  
Though pressed by many a foe;  
That will not tremble on the brink  
Of poverty or woe;  
That will not murmur nor complain  
Beneath the chastening rod,  
But in the hour of grief or pain  
Can lean upon its God.*

BATHURST

## MARCH 10.

*Dust and Ashes—Penitence.*

“I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”—JOB VIII. 6.

*O great Absolver! grant my soul may wear  
The lowliest garb of penitence and prayer;  
That in the Father's courts my glorious dress,  
May be the garment of Thy righteousness.*

STONE.



## MARCH 11.

*Pool of Bethesda—Healing.*



“A pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue, Bethesda.”—ST. JOHN V. 2.

*Pour on us, Lord, Thine own best gift  
of healing;  
Mould Thou our tempers, and control our  
will,  
And in our hearts Thine image bright  
revealing;  
Help us, that we Thy law of love fulfil*

ADA CAMBRIDGE.





“A bruised reed shall he not break.”

ST. MATT xii. 20.

*O suffering, sad humanity!  
O ye afflicted ones, who lie  
Steeped to the lips in misery,  
Longing and yet afraid to die;  
Patient, though sorely tried!*

*I pledge you in this cup of grief,  
Where floats the fennel's bitter leaf!  
The battle of our life is brief;  
The alarm,—the struggle,—the relief,—  
Then sleep we side by side.*

LONGFELLOW.

## MARCH 12.

*A Bruised Reed.  
Hope in Affliction*



## MARCH 13.

*An Olive Leaf—Peace.*



“And the dove came—and lo, in her mouth  
was an olive leaf.”—GENESIS viii. 11.

*Dove with thine Olive-leaf,  
Brood o'er this house in peace;  
Give hope and joy for fear and grief,  
And bid our love increase.*

JOHN LONGMUIR.

“When they had platted a crown of thorns,  
they put it upon His head.”

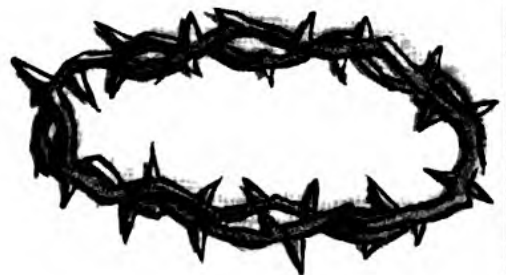
ST. MATT. xxvii. 29.

*Yea, Thou wilt answer for me, righteous  
Lord!  
Thine all the merits, mine the great reward;  
Thine the sharp thorns, and mine the golden  
crown;  
Mine the life won, and Thine the life laid  
down.*

STONE.

## MARCH 14.

*A Crown of Thorns.  
Suffering.*



## MARCH 15.

*The Parchments—Study.*



“The cloak bring—and the books, but especially the parchments.”

2 TIMOTHY iv. 13.

*At eve, within yon studious nook,  
I ope my brass embossed book,  
Portrayed with many a holy deed  
Of Martyrs, crowned with heavenly meed.  
Then, as my taper waxes dim,  
Chant, ere I sleep, my measured hymn,  
And, at the close, the gleams behold  
Of parting wings, bedropt with gold.*

THOMAS WARTON.

“But thou hast kept the good wine until now.”—ST. JOHN ii. 10.

## MARCH 16.

*Good Wine—Blessings in store.*

*Ever the richest tenderest glow  
Set round th' autumnal sun;  
But there, sight fails: no heart may know  
The bliss when life is done.  
Such is Thy banquet, dearest Lord;  
O give us grace, to cast  
Our lot with Thine, to trust Thy word,  
And keep our best till last.*

KEBLE.



## MARCH 17.

*The Flowers—Generosity.*



“For, lo, the winter is past—the flowers appear on the earth,”—CANTICLES ii. 11-12.

*Give! as the morning that flows out of Heaven  
Give! as the waves when their channel is riven  
Give! as the free air and sunshine are given  
Lavishly, utterly, joyfully given.*

*Not the waste drops of thy cup overflowing;  
Not the faint sparks of thy hearth ever glowing  
Not a pale bud from the June roses blowing  
Give as He gave thee, who gave thee to live.*

ANON.





“And some (seeds) fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up, and choked them.”

ST. MATT. xiii. 7.

*This world is all a fleeting show,  
For man's illusion given;  
The smiles of joy, the tears of woe,  
Deceitful shine, deceitful flow—  
There's nothing true, but Heaven!*

MOORE.

## MARCH 18.

*Seed among Thorns.  
Worldliness.*



## MARCH 19.

*A Highway—Progress.*



“And an highway shall be there—the redeemed shall walk there.”—ISAIAH xxxv. 8.

*Thy way, not mine, O Lord,  
However dark it be!  
Lead me by Thy own hand,  
Choose out the path for me.*

*Smooth let it be, or rough,  
It will be still the best;  
Winding or straight, it leads  
Right onward to Thy rest.*

BONAR.

## MARCH 20.

*A Sponge on a Reed.  
Mockery.*

“One of them took a sponge and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed.”

ST. MATT. xxvii. 48.

*Have we no tears to shed for Him,  
While soldiers scoff and Jews deride?  
Ah! look how patiently He hangs;  
Jesus, our Lord, is crucified.*

FABER.





## MARCH 21.

*A Gourd—Earthly Happiness.*



“Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd but God prepared a worm, and it smote the gourd that it withered.”—JONAH IV. 6-7.

*Happiness is not the gentle growth of earth,  
The toil is fruitless if you seek it here,  
'Tis an exotic of celestial birth,  
And never blooms but in celestial air.*

*Sweet plant of Paradise! thy seeds are so  
In here and there, some minds of heaven  
mould,  
It rises slow, and blooms; but ne'er w  
known  
To ripen here, the climate is too cold.*

HEB

“It is like a grain of mustard seed; and it grew, and waxed a great tree.”

ST. LUKE XIII. 19.

*There is a family on earth,  
Whose Father fills a throne;  
But, though a seed of heavenly birth,  
To men they're little known.*

\* \* \* \* \*  
*No! they will tread while here below,  
The path their Master trod;  
Content all honour to forego,  
But that which comes from God.*

KELLY.

## MARCH 22.

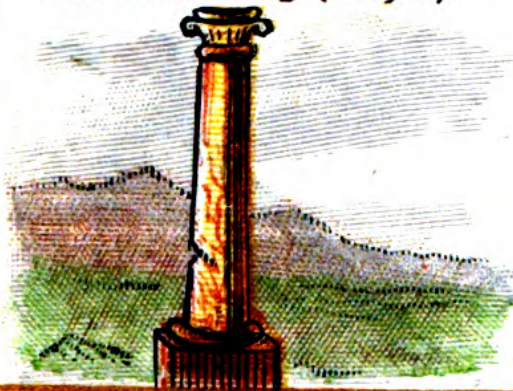
*Mustard Seed.*

*Christ's Kingdom on Earth*



## MARCH 23.

*A Pillar of Stone.  
God's Dwelling (Beth-el).*



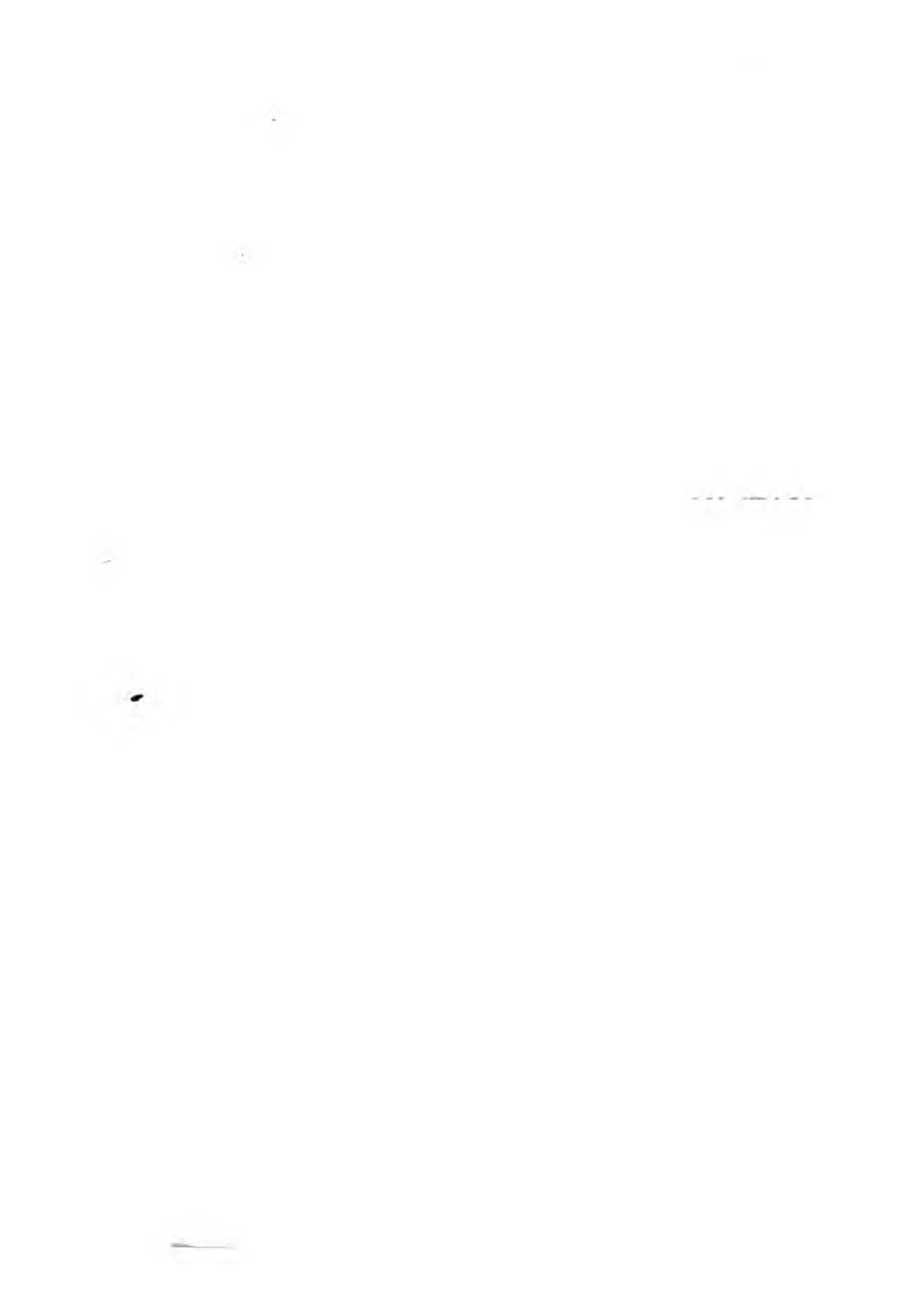
“Jacob set up a stone—and called the name of the place where God spake with him, Beth-el.”

GENESIS XXXV. 14-15

*As one, in days of old, would fly  
To some protecting shrine;  
From dread pursuers threat'ning nigh,  
And, panting, there recline.  
Lord, to Thy dwelling I repair,  
And cling around Thine altar there!*

TOWNSEN





## MARCH 24.

*The Silver Cord.  
The Thread of Life.*

*"Or eber the silver cord he loosed."  
ECCLESIASTES xii. 6.*

*Like warp and woof, all destinies  
Are woven fast;  
Linked in sympathy, like the keys  
Of an organ vast.  
Pluck one thread, and the web ye mar;  
Break but one  
Of a thousand keys, and the paining far  
Through all will run.*

WHITTIER.



## MARCH 25.

**THE ANNUNCIATION.**  
*The Lily among Thorns.  
The Blessed among Women.*



*"As the lily among thorns."  
CANTICLES ii. 2.*

*O wondrous depth of grace Divine,  
That He should bend so low!  
And, Mary, oh, what joy 'twas thine  
In His dear love to know;  
Joy to be Mother of the Lord,  
And thine the truer bliss,  
In every thought, and deed, and word,  
To be for ever His!*

SIR HENRY BAKER.

## MARCH 26.

*Palm Trees—Victory.*

*"They took branches of palm trees, and  
went forth to meet Him, and cried, Hosanna!"*

ST. JOHN xii. 13.

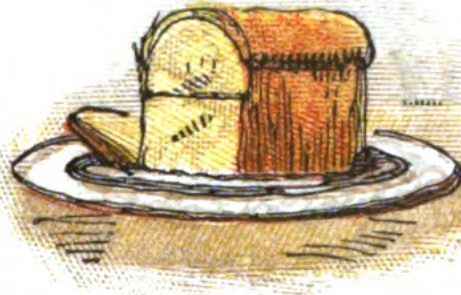
*And Lebanon, thy pomp shall grace  
The fir, the pine, the palm victorious  
Shall beautify our Holy Place,  
And make the ground I tread on, glorious.*

MOORE.



## MARCH 27.

*Daily Bread—A Necessity.*



“Give us this day our daily bread.”

ST. MATT. vi.

*Generous as brave,  
Affection, kindness, the sweet offices  
Of love and duty, were to him, as need  
As his daily bread.*

ROGERS.

“And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water.”—GENESIS xxi. 19.

*There is a bright Fountain, through that  
desert stealing,  
To pure lips alone its refreshment revealing.  
What may that Fountain be?  
'Tis truth, holy truth; that, like springs  
under ground,  
By the gifted of Heaven alone can be found.*

MOORE.

## MARCH 28.

*A Well of Water.  
Renewal of Life.*



## MARCH 29.

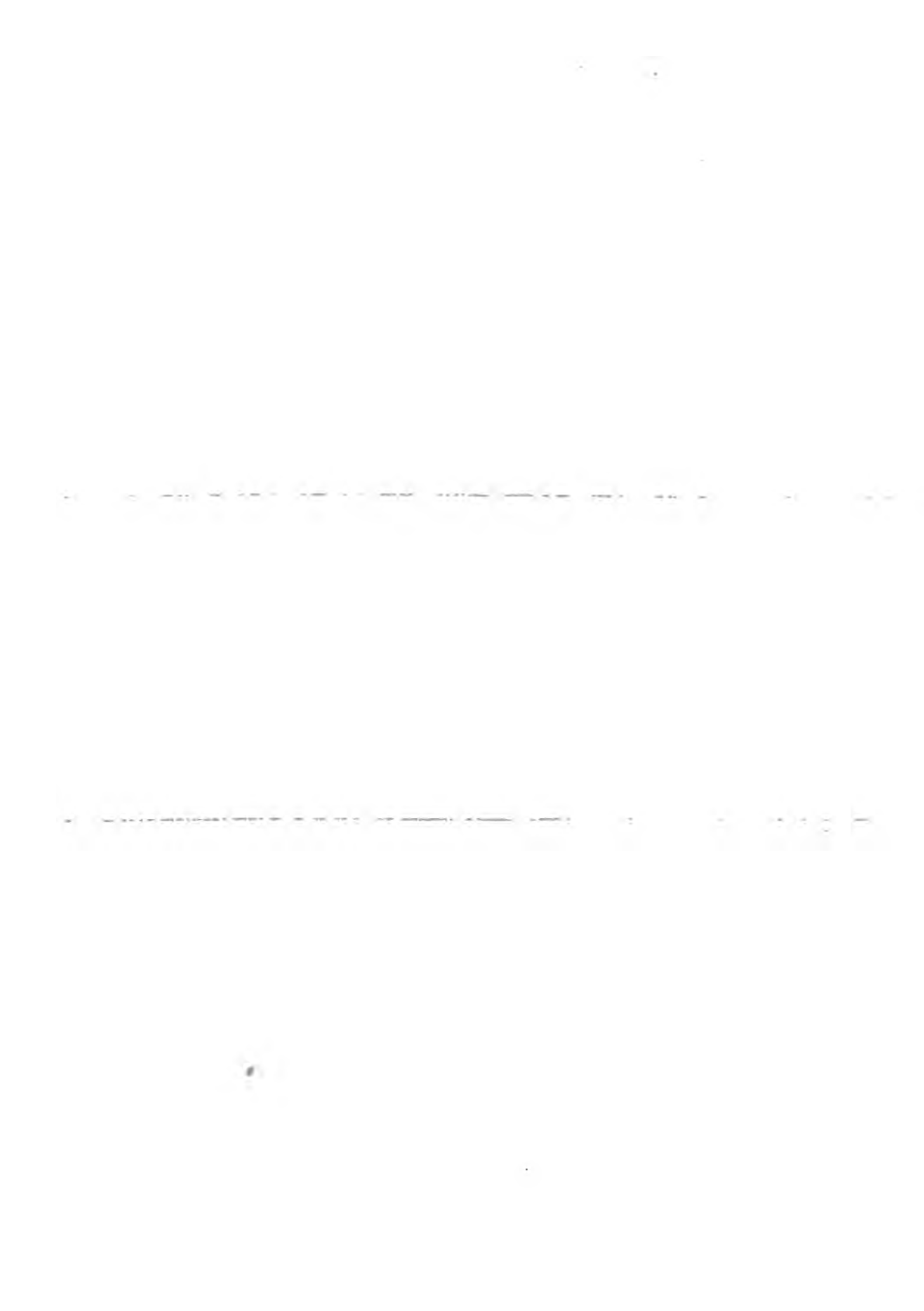
*Cakes upon the Hearth.  
Hospitality.*



“Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah and said, Make ready quickly three measure fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon hearth.”—GENESIS xviii. 6.

*So saying, with dispatchful looks in haste  
She turns, on hospitable thoughts intent  
What choice to choose for delicacy best;  
What order, so contrived, as not to mix  
Tastes, not well join'd, in elegant, but br  
Taste after taste upheld with kindest cha  
Bestirs her then.*

MILTON.





## MARCH 30.

"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."—PSALM i. 3.

*Like some fair tree, which, fed by streams,  
With timely fruit does bend;  
He still shall flourish, and success  
All his designs attend.*

TATE & BRADY.

*A Tree planted by the Rivers of  
Water—Prosperity.*



## MARCH 31.

*The Cross—Sacrifice.*



"He bearing his cross, went forth,"

ST. JOHN xix. 17.

*Come, take thy stand beneath the cross,  
And let the blood from out that side  
Fall gently on thee, drop by drop;  
Jesus, our Lord, is crucified.*

FABER.

## APRIL 1.

"I am the lily of the valleys."

CANTICLES ii. 1.

*When Mary chose the "better part,"  
She meekly sat at Jesus' feet:  
And Lydia's gently opened heart  
Was made for God's own temple meet;  
Fairest and best adorned is she  
Whose clothing is humility.*

UNKNOWN.

*The Lily of the Valleys.  
Humility.*





## APRIL 2.

*An Ear of Barley  
Early Promise.*



*"The barley was in the ear."—EXODUS ix. 31*

*"Now, I lay me, —say it, darling;  
"Lay me," lisped the tiny lips  
Of my daughter, kneeling, bending,  
O'er her folded finger tips.  
"Down to sleep,"—"to sleep," she murmured  
And the curly head dipped low;  
"I pray the Lord," I gently added,  
"You can say it all, I know;"  
"Pray the Lord,"—the words came faintly  
Fainter still—"my soul to keep;"  
Then the tired head fairly nodded,  
And the child was fast asleep.*

UNKNOWN.

*"But other (seed) fell into good ground."  
ST. MATT. xiii. 8.*

*O God! by whom the seed is given,  
By whom the harvest blest;  
Whose word, like manna showered from  
Is planted in our breast; [Heaven,  
Preserve it from the passing feet,  
And plunderers of the air;  
The sultry sun's intenser heat,  
And weeds of worldly care  
Though buried deep, or thinly strewn,  
As Thou Thy grace supply;  
The hope in earthly furrows sown,  
Shall ripen in the sky,*

BISHOP HEBER.

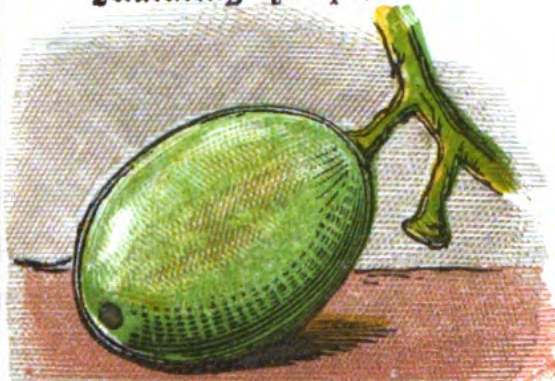
## APRIL 3.

*Seed in Good Ground.  
Teachableness.*



## APRIL 4.

*An Unripe Grape.  
Maturing Purposes.*



*"He shall shake off his unripe grape."  
JOB xv. 31*

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for His grace;  
Behind a frowning Providence,  
He hides a smiling face.  
His purposes will ripen fast,  
Expanding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flower.*

COWPER.





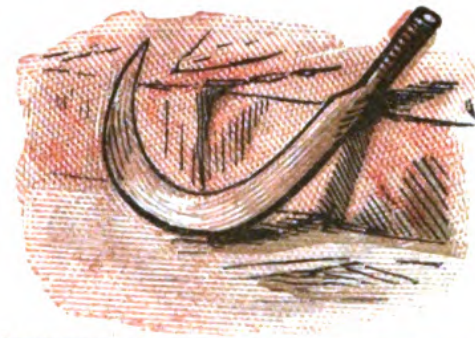
"When the bud is perfect, and the sour grapes  
is ripening in the flower, he shall both cut off the  
sprigs with pruning hooks, and take away and  
cut down the branches."—ISAIAH xviii. 5.

*In dreams, in study, and in ardent thought,  
Thus even from childhood, upwards, was  
he reared;  
For intellectual progress, wanting much  
Doubtless of needful help—yet gaining  
more;  
And every moral feeling of his soul,  
Strengthened and braced by breathing in  
content,  
The keen, the wholesome air of poverty.*

WORDSWORTH.

## APRIL 5.

*Pruning Hooks—Culture.*



## APRIL 6.

*Tender Fig Branches.  
Harbingers.*



"Learn a parable of the fig tree; when her  
branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye  
know that summer is near."

ST. MARK xiii. 28.

*The Lord will also then bestow  
Whatever thing is good;  
Our land shall forth in plenty throw  
Her fruits to be our food.  
Before Him righteousness shall go,  
His royal Harbinger;  
Then will He come, and not be slow,  
His footsteps cannot err.*

MILTON'S

Version of PSALM lxxxv. 12-13

## APRIL 7.

*Almond Tree.  
Early Development.*

"I see a rod of an almond tree."

JEREMIAH i. 11.

*'Tis woman's to fashion the infant mind,  
To kindle its thoughts, and its hopes  
unbind;  
To guide its young wing, in the earliest flight,  
And lure it to worlds of unsullied light;  
To teach him to sing in his gladsome hours,  
Of a Saviour's love, with an angel's powers.*

YOUNG.



## APRIL 8.

*An Emerald.*  
Faithfulness of God.



“There was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.”

REVELATION iv. 3

*And the promise stands for ever,  
That each faithful one shall be  
Guarded by His grace and power,  
By His love, eternally.*

ADA CAMBRIDGE

## APRIL 9.

*Chesnut Trees—Shelter.*

“The chesnut trees were not like his branches.”  
EZEKIEL xxxi. 8.

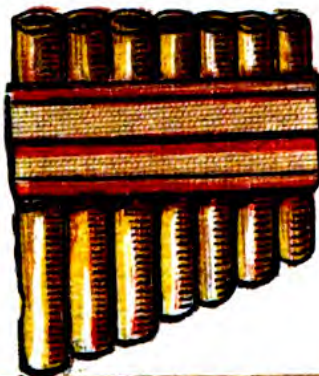
*When rising wind and rain descending,  
I hear approaching storm declare,  
With trembling speed, their wings extending,  
The birds to sheltering trees repair.  
So I, by faith, with sin oppressed,  
Would refuge take, O Christ, in Thee;  
Thou art my hiding place, and rest;  
From every evil shelter me.*

UNKNOWN.



## APRIL 10.

*An Organ—Worship.*



“Praise him with stringed instruments  
organs.”—PSALM cl. 4.

*The breath of organ notes  
Through the dim arches of yon solemn na  
Like some sweet echo of the bright sea wav  
In grandest music floats.  
Ebbing and falling now,  
Just as the breaker dies upon the shore,  
When the proud head goes down for everm  
With its grand crest of snow.*

ADA CAMBRIDGE





"The trees of lign aloes, which the Lord hath planted.—NUMBERS xxiv. 6.

—Father, thine hand  
Hath reared these venerable columns; Thou  
Did'st weave this verdant roof, Thou did'st  
look down  
Upon the naked earth, and forthwith rose  
All these fair ranks of trees. They in Thy  
sun  
Budded, and shook their green leaves, in Thy  
breeze,  
And shot towards Heaven.

BRYANT.

APRIL 11.  
Lign Aloes—Planted by God.



APRIL 12.

Green Herbs.  
Short-lived Pleasure.



"For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb."

PSALM xxxvii. 2

Leave me to sigh o'er hours that flew  
More idly than the summer's wind;  
And while they passed, a fragrance  
threw,  
But left no trace of sweets behind.  
The warmest sigh that pleasure heaves,  
Is cold, is faint, to those that swell  
The heart where pure repentance grieves,  
O'er hours of pleasure, loved too well.

MOORE.

"He planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it."—ISAIAH xlv. 14.

To keep the lamp alive,  
With oil, we fill the bowl;  
'Tis water makes the willow thrive,  
And grace that feeds the soul.  
The Lord's unsparing hand  
Supplies the living stream;  
It is not at our own command,  
But still derived from Him.

COWPER.

APRIL 13.  
Ash Tree—Need of Nurture.





## APRIL 14.

*The Ark of Bulrushes.  
A Hiding-place.*



“She took for him an ark of bulrushes, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flax by the river’s side.”—EXODUS ii. 3.

*No need for her to weep  
Like Thracian wives of yore,  
Save when in rapture still and deep  
Her thankful heart runs o’er.  
They mourned to trust their treasure  
on the main,  
Sure of the storm, unknowing of the  
guide:  
Welcome to her the peril and the pain,  
For well she knows the home where  
they may safely hide.*

KEBLE.

## APRIL 15.

*The Vine—Cheerfulness.*

“The vine said, should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?”—JUDGES ix. 13.

*And her against sweet cheerfulness was  
placed,  
Whose eyes, like twinkling stars in evening  
clear  
Were deckt with smyles, and all sad humours  
chased,  
And darted forth delights, the which her  
goodly graced.*

SPENSER.



## APRIL 16.

*Thick Clouds—Despondency.*



“He made darkness his secret place, D  
waters and thick clouds of the skies.”

PSALM xviii. 11

*God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps on the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take  
The clouds ye so much dread,  
Are big with mercies, and shall break  
In blessings on your head.*

COWPER





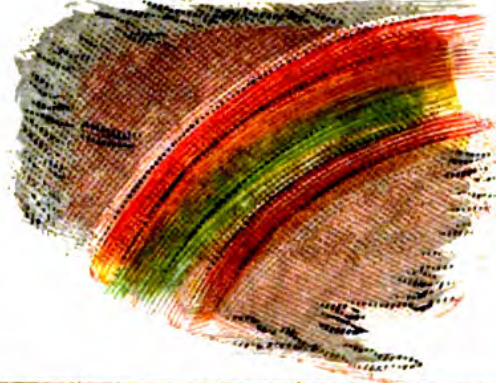
"If do set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth,"—GENESIS ix. 13.

*When o'er the green undeluged earth  
Heaven's covenant thou did'st shine,  
How came the world's grey father's forth  
To watch Thy sacred sign?*

\* \* \* \* \*  
*For faithful to its sacred page,  
Heaven still rebuilds Thy span;  
Ner lets the type grow pale with age  
That first spoke peace to man.*

CAMPBELL.

**APRIL 17.**  
*The Rainbow.  
Covenant of Peace.*



**APRIL 18.**

*Prepared Spices.  
Affection's Offering.*



"They came, bringing the spices which they had prepared."—ST. LUKE xxiv. 1.

*Myrrh and spices will I bring,  
True affection's offering;  
Close the door from sight and sound  
Of the busy world around:  
And in patient watch remain  
Till my Lord appear again.*

WHYTEHEAD.

"The pomegranate tree, the palm tree also; even all the trees."—JOEL i. 12.

*And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,  
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent;  
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,  
But tell of days in goodness spent;  
A mind at peace with all below,  
A heart whose love is innocent*

BYRON.

**APRIL 19.**  
*Pomegranate Tree.  
Attractiveness.*



## APRIL 20.

*Bitter Herbs—Discipline.*



“With bitter herbs they shall eat it,”  
EXODUS xii. 8

\* \* \* \* \*  
*Then in life's goblet freely press  
The leaves that give it bitterness ;  
Nor prize the coloured water less,  
For in Thy darkness and distress  
New light and strength they give.*

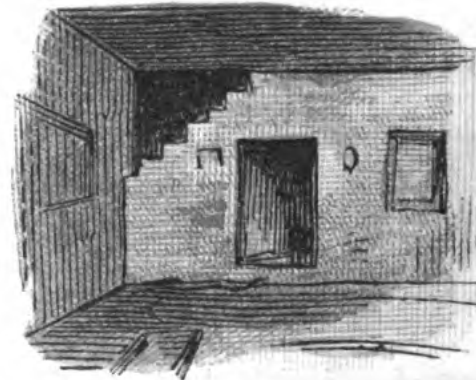
LONGFELLOW

“They found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.”—ST. LUKE xxiv. 2.

*Why weepst thou? Whom seekest thou?  
The living with the dead?  
Take young spring flowers, and deck thy  
For life with joy is wed: [brow,  
The grave is now the grave no more ;  
Why fear to pass that bridal chamber door ?  
Take flowers and strew them all around  
The room where Jesus lay ;  
But softly tread: this hallowed ground,  
And this is Easter Day.  
“The Lord is risen,” as He said,  
And thou shalt rise with Him thy risen head.*  
COURTENAY GIDLEY.

## APRIL 21.

*The Unsealed Sepulchre.  
Easter Day.*



## APRIL 22.

*Shining Garments—Gladness.*



“As they were much perplexed ; behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.”  
ST. LUKE xxiv. 4.

*A little while for patient vigil keeping,  
To face the stern, to battle with the strong,  
A little while to sow the seed with weeping,  
Then bind the sheaves, and sing the harvest  
song.  
A little while to wear the weeds of sadness  
To pass with weary steps through noisy wa  
Then to pour forth the fragrant oil of gla  
ness,  
And clasp the girdle round the robes of } a*

JANE CREWDSON.





"I will plant in the wilderness the shittah tree."—ISAIAH xli. 19.

*Why comes the fragrance on the summer breeze,  
The blended tribute of ten thousand flowers?  
To me, a frequent wanderer 'mid the trees,  
That from those gay, though solitary bowers,  
One answer is around, beneath, above,  
The echo of the voice, that "God is Love."*

DAVIS.

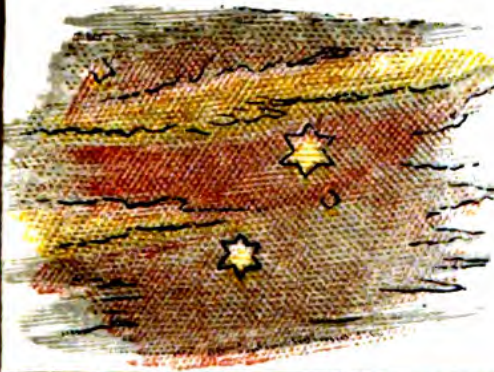
APRIL 23.

*The Shittah Tree (Black Acacia)  
Fragrance.*



APRIL 24.

*Stars—Saints in Glory.*



"One star differeth from another star in glory; so also is the resurrection of the dead."

I CORINTHIANS XV. 41-42

*Who are these like stars appearing,  
These, before God's throne who stand?  
Each a golden crown is wearing,  
Who are all this glorious band?  
Hallelujah, hark! they sing,  
Praising loud their Heavenly King.*

*From the GERMAN*

"Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart; so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel."—PROVERBS xxvii. 9.

*Companion of the saints! 'twas thine  
To taste that drop of peace divine,  
When the great soldier of thy Lord  
Call'd thee to take his last farewell,  
Teaching the church with joy to tell  
The story of your love restored.*

KEBLE.

APRIL 25.

ST. MARK'S DAY.  
*Ointment and Perfume.  
Renewed Friendship.*





## APRIL 26.

*Olive Tree—Anointing.*



“The olive tree said, should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man.”—JUDGES ix. 9.

*Oh! Thou who driest the mourner's tear,  
How dark this world would be,  
If, when deceived and wounded, here,  
We could not fly to Thee!  
The friends who in our sunshine live,  
When Winter comes, are flown;  
And he that has but tears to give,  
Must weep those tears alone.  
But Thou wilt heal their broken heart,  
Which like the plants that throw  
Their fragrance from that wounded part  
Breathes sweetness out of woe.* MOORE

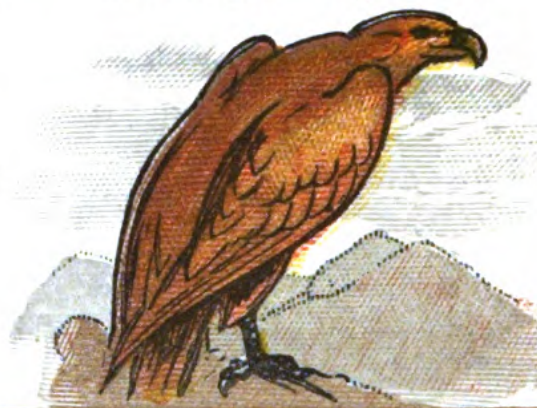
“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles.”—ISAIAH xl. 31.

*His noble mind  
Is clear, and full, and stately, and serene;  
His earnest and undazzled eye he keeps  
Fixed on the sun of Truth, and breaths his  
words  
As easily as eagles cleave the air;  
And never pauses till the height is won,  
And all who listen, follow where he leads.*

HOLE.

## APRIL 27.

*The Eagle—Aspiration.*



## APRIL 28.

*Green Figs—Youth.*



“The fig tree putteth forth her green figs.”  
CANTICLES ii. 13

*How bright, how strong, in youth's untroubled hours  
On yon proud height, with genius hand in hand,  
I see thee light, and wave thy golden wand.  
“Go, child of Heaven!” (thy winged word proclaim),  
'Tis thine to search the boundless fields of fame.*

CULLEN BRYANT.





"The trumpet shall sound; and the dead shall be raised incorruptible."—1 COR. XV. 52.

Yet grieve thou not, nor think thy youth is gone;

Nor deem that glorious season e'er could die.

Thy pleasant youth, a little while withdrawn,  
Waits on the horizon of a brighter sky:

Waits like the morn that folds her wings  
and hides

Till the slow stars bring back her dawning  
hour;

Waits like the vanished spring, that slumber-  
ing 'bides

her own sweet time, to waken, bud, and  
flower.

CULLEN BRYANT.

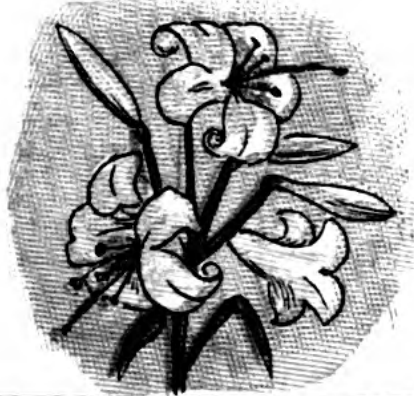
APRIL 29.

A Trumpet—Recall to Life.



APRIL 30.

A Lily—Purity.



"It will be as the dew unto Israel; he shall grow as the lily."—HOSEA xiv. 5.

Bear a lily in thine hand;

Gates of brass cannot withstand  
One touch of that magic wand.

Bear through sorrow, wrong, and ruth,  
In thy heart the dew of youth,

On thy lips the smile of truth.

LONGFELLOW.

"There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."—2 TIMOTHY iv. 8.

The love from Philip once coucealed,  
We know its fulness now in Christ;  
In Him the Father is revealed,  
And all our longing is sufficed,  
And still unwavering faith holds sure  
The words that James wrote sternly  
down;

Except we labour and endure,  
We cannot win the Heavenly crown.

C. F. ALEXANDER.

MAY 1.

SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES'  
DAY.

A Crown—Reward.



## MAY 2.

*Apple Tree—Temptation.*



“The palm tree also, and the apple tree.”

JOEL i. 12.

*Ah! with such strange spells around me,  
Fairest of what earth calls fair;  
How I need Thy fairer image  
To undo the syren snare.  
Lest the subtle serpent-tempter  
Lure me with his radiant lie;  
As if sin were sin no longer,  
Life were no more vanity.*

HORATIUS BONAR.

## MAY 3.

“I am the rose of Sharon.”

CANTICLES ii. 1.

*By cool Siloam's shady rill,  
How sweet the lily grows!  
How sweet the breath, beneath the hill,  
Of Sharon's dewy rose!  
Lo! such the child whose early feet  
The paths of peace have trod;  
Whose secret heart, with influence sweet  
Is upward drawn to God.*

BISHOP HEBER.

*The Rose of Sharon.  
Modest Sweetness.*



## MAY 4.

*Sycomore Tree—Honourable Age.*



“He ran before and climbed up into  
Sycomore tree.”—ST. LUKE xix. 4.

*This sycomore, oft musical with bees,  
Such tents the Patriarchs loved! O, lo  
unharm'd  
May all its aged boughs o'er-canopy  
The small round basin, which this jutting  
stone  
Keeps pure from falling leaves!*

COLERIDGE

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MAY 5.

*A Cruise of Water.*  
Divine Providence.

"And he looked, and behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruise of water at his head."—I KINGS xix. 6.

*What then? the wailing of the midnight  
wind,  
A feverish sleep, a heart oppressed and  
aching;  
And then, a little water cruise to find  
Close by my pillow, ready for my waking.*

JANE CREWDSON,



MAY 6.

*Feathers of Gold—Revived Hope.*



"Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold."  
PSALM lxviii. 13.

*Through the harsh noises of our day,  
A low, sweet prelude finds its way;  
Through clouds of doubt and creeds of fear  
A light is breaking, calm and clear.*

*Henceforth my heart shall sigh no more  
For olden time, and holier shore;  
God's love and blessing, then and there,  
Are now, and here, and everywhere.*

WHITTIER.

MAY 7.

*Green Pastures—Rest.*

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures."  
PSALM xxiii. 2.

*In the green pastures of the heavenly shore,  
Where sin and sorrow can approach no more;  
With all the flock by the good Shepherd fed,  
Beside the streams of life eternal led,  
For ever with thy God and Saviour blest,  
Rest, sweetly rest.*

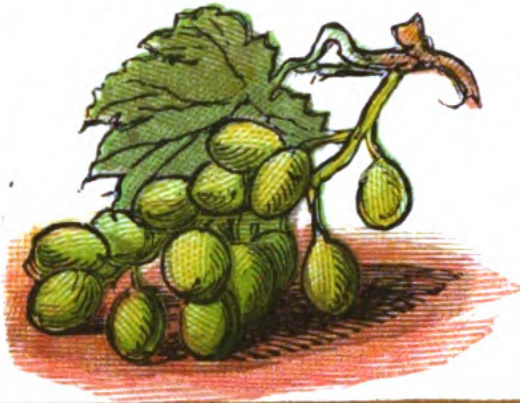
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## MAY 8.

*Tender Grapes.*  
Enjoyment of Nature.



"The vines with the tender grapes give a good smell."—CANTICLES ii. 13.

*All nature seems at work; slugs leave their  
lair,  
The bees are stirring, birds are on the wing,  
And Winter, slumbering in the open air,  
Wears on his smiling face, a dream of Spring,  
And I alone, the sole unbusy thing.*

COLERIDGE

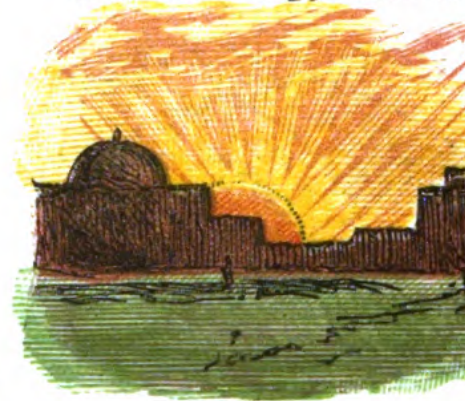
"Unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise, with healing in his wings."—MALACHI iv. 2.

*Set, for the heart's that love thee,  
Thy token up above,  
The white rays of redemption,  
And the red fire of love;  
Out of our gloom, we call Thee,  
Out of our helpless night:  
Sun of the world, sweet Saviour,  
Show us Thy perfect light.*

C. F. ALEXANDER.

## MAY 9.

*The Sun—Righteousness*



## MAY 10.

*Pomegranate Buds.*  
Incompleteness.



"Let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates break forth,"—CANTICLES vii. 12.

*Each form of loveliness, each fair creature  
Hath yet a type more true and brighter,  
And we must trace in all the dim relations  
And what they might be, learn from what  
they are.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*And only as we know, and love them duly  
As bud and promise of a fairer growth  
Shall we learn how to weigh and prize them  
truly,  
And trace the true, unto the highest truth.*





"She went down to the well and filled her pitcher."—GENESIS xxiv. 16.

*A little while, the earthen pitcher taking  
To wayside brooks, from far off fountains  
fed,  
Then the cool lip, its thirst for ever slaking,  
Beside the fulness of the fountain head.*

JANE CREWDSON.

MAY 11.

*A Pitcher.  
Means of Refreshment.*



MAY 12.

*A Veil—Concealment.*



"He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations."—ISAIAH xxv. 7.

*But who shall see the glorious day,  
When thron'd on Zion's brow,  
The Lord shall rend that veil away  
Which hides the nations now?  
When earth no more beneath the fear  
Of his rebuke shall lie,  
When pain shall cease, and every tear  
Be wip'd from every eye.*

MOORE.

"As he lay and slept under a juniper tree,  
Behold, then an angel touched him."

1 KINGS xix. 5.

*He saw the Prophet also how he fled  
Into the desert, and how there he slept  
Under a juniper: then how, awak'd,  
He found his supper on the coals prepar'd,  
And by the angel was bid rise and eat,  
And eat the second time after repose.*

MILTON

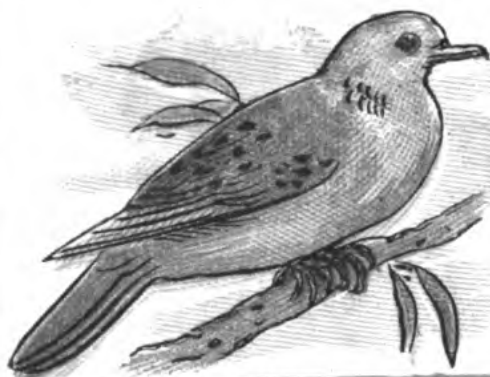
MAY 13.

*Juniper Tree—Repose.*



## MAY 14.

*The Turtle (Dove)—Purity.*



“The voice of the turtle is heard in our land  
CANTICLES ii. 14.

*Oh, fair! oh, purest! be thou the dove  
That flies alone to some sunny grove  
And lies unseen, and bathes her wing  
All vestal white, in the limpid spring  
There, if the hovering hawk be near,  
That limpid spring, in its mirror clear  
Reflects him, ere he can reach his prey  
And warns the timorous bird away.  
Oh! be like this dove.*

MOORE

“The fig tree said unto them, should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees.”—JUDGES ix. 2.

*I have seen one whose eloquence commanding,  
Roused the rich echoes of the human breast,  
The blandishments of wealth and ease with-  
standing,  
That hope might reach the suffering and  
oppressed;  
And by his side there moved a form of  
beauty,  
Strewing sweet flowers along his path of life,  
And looking up with meek and love-lent duty,  
I call her ANGEL, but he called her WIFE.*

UNKNOWN.

## MAY 15.

*Fig Tree—Sweetness.*



## MAY 16.

*A Flower of the Field.  
Harmless Delight.*



“As a flower of the field so he flourisheth  
PSALM ciii. 15.

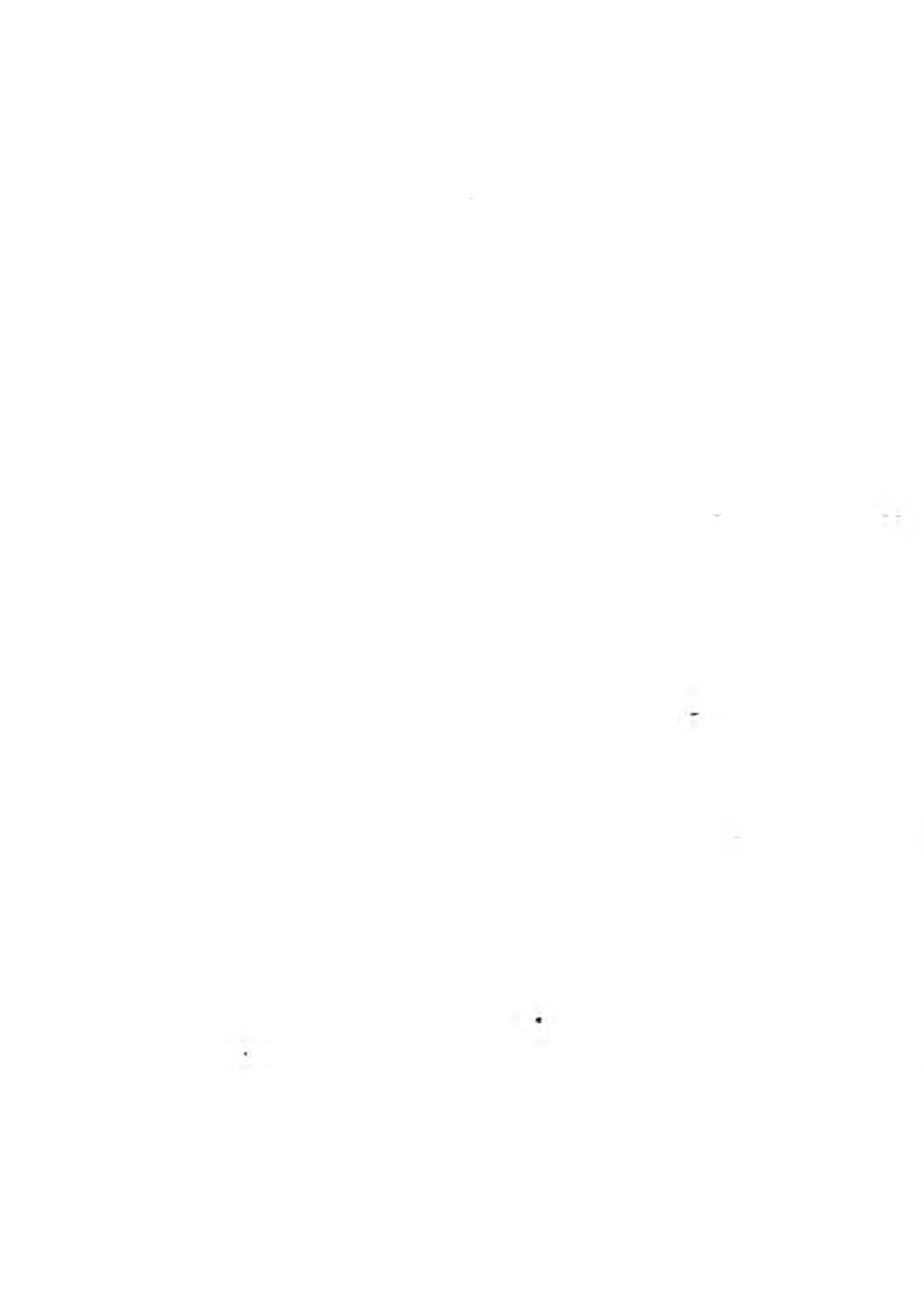
*Ye bright mosaics that with storied beauties  
The floor of nature's temple tesselate,  
What numerous lessons of instructive d  
Your forms create  
Not useless are ye, flowers, though made  
pleasure,  
Blooming o'er hill and dale, by day and  
On every side your sanction bids me tread  
Harmless delight.*

HORACE SM

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“In the day time also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.”

PSALM lxxviii. 14.

*So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still  
Will lead me on,  
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till  
The night is gone,  
And with the morn those angel faces smile,  
Which I have loved long since, and lost  
awhile.*

NEWMAN.

MAY 17.

*A Light of Fire—Guidance.*



MAY 18.

*A Fruitful Bough—Beneficence.*



“A fruitful bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall.”—GEN. xlix. 22.

*So the wild wind spreads its perfumed caresses  
Evil and thankless, the desert it blesses;  
Bitter the wave that its soft pinion presses,  
Never it ceases to whisper and sing.  
What if the hard heart gives thorns for thy  
roses!  
What if on rocks thy tired bosom reposes!  
Sweeter is music with minor-keyed closes,  
Fairest the vines that on ruins will cling.*

UNKNOWN

“He rebuked the winds, and the sea; and there was a great calm.”—ST. MATT. viii. 26.

MAY 19.

*Calm Sea—Peace.*

*My choir shall be the moon light waves,  
When murmuring homeward to their  
caves,  
Or, when the stillness of the sea,  
Even more than music, breathes of Thee!*

MOORE.





**MAY 20.**

*The Timbrel—Triumph.*



“Miriam, the prophetess; took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women went after her with timbrels and with dances.”

EXODUS xv. 20

*Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea,  
Jehovah has triumphed, his people are free;  
Sing, for the pride of the tyrant is broken,  
His chariots, his horsemen, all splendid and brave,  
How vain was their boast, for the Lord has  
And chariots and horsemen are sunk in the  
wave.*

*Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea,  
Jehovah has triumphed, his people are free.*

MOORE.

**MAY 21.**

*The Bramble—Honesty.*

“The bramble said unto the trees, if in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow.”—JUDGES ix. 15.

*An honest soul is like a ship at sea,  
That sleeps at anchor on the ocean's calm;  
But when it rages, and the wind blows high,  
She cuts her way with skill and majesty.*

BEAUMONT & FLETCHER.



**MAY 22.**

*A Diamond—Brilliancy.*



“A pen of iron, with the point of a diamond.”

JEREMIAH xvii. 1

*Since o'er Thy footstool here below  
Such radiant gems are strewn;  
Oh, what magnificence must glow,  
My God, about Thy throne!  
So brilliant here those drops of light—  
There the full ocean rolls, how bright!*

W. A. MÜHLENBERG.





"Abraham planted a grove, and called there on the name of the Lord."—GENESIS xxi. 33.

'Neath cloistered bough each floral bell that  
swingeth,  
And tolls its perfume on the passing air,  
Makes sabbath in the fields, and ever ringeth  
A call to prayer.  
There as in solitude and shade I wander,  
Through the lone aisles, or stretched upon  
the sod,  
Awed by the silence, reverently ponder  
The ways of God.

HORACE SMITH.

MAY 23.

A Grove—Retirement.



MAY 24.

A Sceptre.

Power of Showing Mercy.



"The sceptre shall not depart."  
GENESIS xlix. 10.

(The) sceptre shows the force of temporal  
power,  
The attribute to awe and majesty,  
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of  
kings;  
But mercy is above this scepter'd sway,  
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings;  
It is an attribute to God himself;  
And earthly power doth then show likest  
God's  
When mercy seasons justice.

SHAKESPEARE.

"Deborah, a prophetess; she judged Israel at that time, and she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah."—JUDGES iv. 4-5.

Let not rage and vengeance mix their  
rancour;  
Let them not trouble with their fretful  
storm,  
Their angry gleams, that azure, where  
enthroned  
The calm divinity of Justice sits  
And pities while she punishes mankind.

THOMSON.

MAY 25.

Palm Tree of Deborah.  
Just Judgment.



**MAY 26.**

*Jacob's Ladder.  
The Ministry of Angels.*



“We dreamed, and behold a ladder set up  
the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven,  
and behold the angels of God ascending  
and descending on it.”—GENESIS xxviii. 12.

*How oft do they their silver bowers leave,  
To come to succour us that succour want!  
How oft do they with golden pinions cleave  
The flitting skies like flying pursuivants,  
Against fowle fiendes to ayd us militant  
They for us fight, they watch, and dewly  
ward, [plan  
And their bright squadrons round about  
And all for love, and nothing for reward  
Oh! why should heavenly God to men have  
such regard?*

SPENSE

**MAY 27.**

*Mown Grass.  
Waiting for a Blessing.*

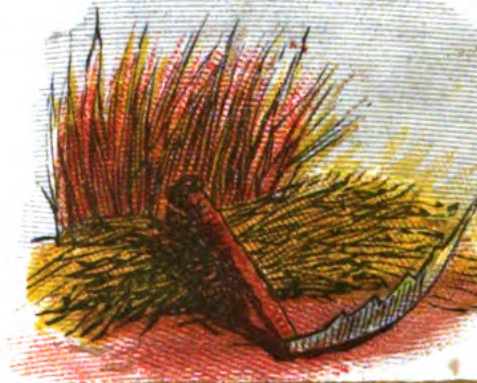
“He shall come down like rain upon the  
mown grass.”—PSALM lxxii. 6.

*For the bright, unfettered feeling,  
When the balmy breeze comes stealing,  
All the sweets of Spring revealing,  
Fondly I wait.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*For the grace from Heaven distilling,  
Every sin and folly killing,  
All my heart with gladness filling,  
Humbly I wait.*

THE COMPILERS.



**MAY 28.**

*Water Brooks—Rebival,*



“As the hart panteth after the water brook,  
so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”

PSALM xlii.

*And loving still those quaint old themes  
Even in the City's throng,  
I feel the freshness of the streams  
That crossed by shades and sunny gleams  
Water the green land of dreams,  
The holy land of song,*

LONGFELLOW





"Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak."—JOSHUA xxiv 26.

*And so to live, that when the sun  
Of our existence sinks in night,  
Memorials sweet of mercies done  
May shrine our names in memory's  
light;  
And the blest seeds we scatter'd, bloom  
A hundred-fold in days to come.*

BOWRING.

**MAY 29.**

*The Oak—Memorials.*



**MAY 30.**

*A Swarm of Bees.  
Murmurs of Praise.*



"Behold there was a swarm of bees."

JUDGES xiv. 9.

*Crowds of bees are giddy with clover,  
Crowds of grasshoppers skip at our feet,  
Crowds of larks at their matins hang over,  
Thanking the Lord for a life so sweet.*

JEAN INGELow.

"Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars."—PROVERBS ix. 1.

*My God hath given the stone and clay,  
'Tis I must fashion them aright;  
'Tis I must mould them day by day,  
And make my labour my delight:  
This cot, this palace, this fair home,  
This pleasure house, this holy dome,  
Must be in all proportions fit,  
That heavenly messengers may come  
To lodge with him who tenants it.*

MACKAY.

**MAY 31.**

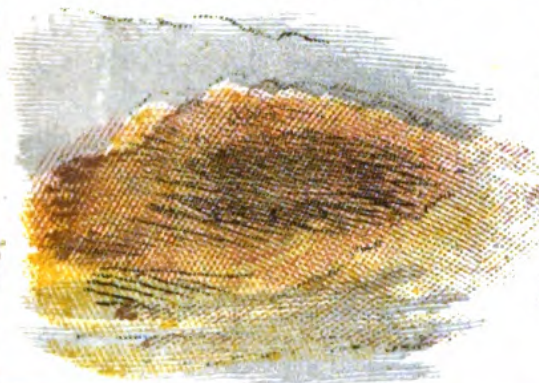
*A House (with seven pillars).  
Wise Thoughts with Action.*





## JUNE 1.

*A Cloud.*  
Temporary Concealment.



“While they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”

ACTS i.

*We must not stand to gaze too long,  
Though on unfolding Heaven our gaze  
we bend,  
Where lost behind the bright angelic throng  
We see Christ's entering triumph slow  
ascend,—  
No fear but we shall soon behold,  
Faster than now it fades, that gleam  
revive,  
When issuing from his cloud of fiery gold  
Our wasted frames feel the true sun,  
and live.*

KEBLE

## JUNE 2.

*Myrtle Tree—Gladness.*

“Instead of the brier, shall come up the myrtle tree.”—ISAIAH lv. 13.

*Is this the time to be cloudy and sad,  
When our Mother Nature laughs around;  
When even the deep blue heaven's look glad,  
And gladness breathes from the blossoming  
ground?*

CULLEN BRYANT.



## JUNE 3.

*A Thicket—Perplexity.*



“Behold, a ram caught in a thicket.”

GENESIS xxii. 1

*Yet, O where else  
Shall I inform my unacquainted feet  
In the blind mazes of this tangled wood?  
A thousand fantasies  
Begin to throng into my memory,  
Of calling shapes, and beck'ning shadows dim,  
And airy tongues, that syllable men's names  
On sands, and shores, and desert wilderness  
These thoughts may startle well, but none  
astound  
The virtuous mind, that ever walks attend  
By a strong-siding champion—Conscience.*

MILTON.





"The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."—ISAIAH XXXV. 1.

*Is this a time to be cloudy and sad,  
When our Mother Nature laughs around;  
When even the deep blue heavens look glad,  
And gladness breathes from the blossoming  
ground?*

*There are notes of joy from the hang-bird and  
wren,  
And the gossip of swallows through all the  
sky:*

*The ground-squirrel gaily chirps by his den,  
And the wilding bee hums merrily by.*

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

**JUNE 4.**

*The Rose—Joy.*



**JUNE 5.**

*Mulberry Tree—A Token.*



"Let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going (the wind) in the tops of the mulberry trees, then thou shalt bestir thyself."

2 SAMUEL V. 24.

*Not all the whispers that the soft winds  
utter*

*Speak earthly things,  
There mingleth there, sometimes, a gentle  
flutter of angel's wings.*

AMY LOTHROP.

"Who cut up mallows by the bushes."

JOB XXX. 4.

*And as I gaze, a solemn joy comes o'er me:  
By these deep footprints I can surely guess  
Some Pilgrim by the road that lies before me,  
Hath crossed long time ago, the wilderness.  
With feet oft bruised among its sharp flints,  
duly*

*He turned aside to gather simples here,  
And lay up cordials for his faintness: truly  
Now will I track his steps and be of cheer.*

DORA GREENWELL.

**JUNE 6.**

*Mallows—The Pilgrim Life.*



## JUNE 7.

*Almug Trees—Ornamental uses.*



“The navy of Hiram brought in from Oph great plenty of almug trees, and the king made of the almug trees pillars, harps also, and psalteries for singees.”—I KINGS x. 11-12.

*From a distant Eastern island,  
Had the precious wood been brought  
Day and night the anxious master  
At his toil untiring wrought.*

\* \* \* \* \*  
*O thou sculptor, painter, poet!  
Take this lesson to thy heart:  
That is best which lieth nearest;  
Shape from that thy work of art.*

LONGFELLOW

## JUNE 8.

*Vine Branches.  
Members of Christ.*

“I am the vine, ye are the branches.”  
ST. JOHN xv. 5.

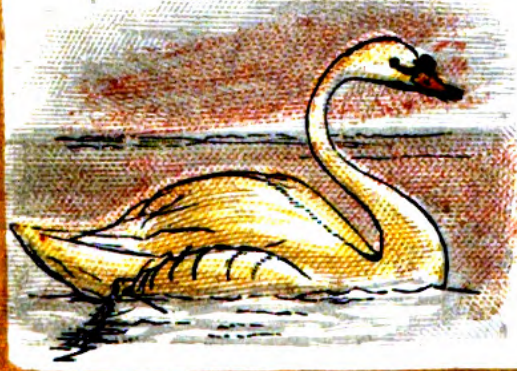
*We are members of that Body,  
We are branches of that Vine;  
We are shafts of that great Temple  
With its Corner-stone Divine.*

ADA CAMBRIDGE.



## JUNE 9.

*A Swan—Tranquil Dignity.*



“The Swan.”—LEVITICUS xi. 18.

*The swan with archèd neck,  
Between her white wings mantling proud  
rows  
Her state with oary feet.*

MILTON

*True dignity is his whose tranquil mind  
Virtue has raised above the things below  
Who, every hope and fear to Heaven resign  
Shrinks not, though fortune aims her  
deadliest blow.*

BEATTIE





"There appeared unto them cloven tongues  
like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them."

ACTS ii. 3.

**JUNE 10.**

*Tongues of Fire.*  
Out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

*Plenteous of grace, descend from high,  
Rich in Thy sevenfold energy!  
Thou strength of His Almighty hand,  
Whose power does heaven and earth com-  
mand;  
Proceeding Spirit, our defence,  
Who dost the gifts of tongues dispense,  
And crown'st Thy gifts with eloquence!*

DRYDEN.



**JUNE 11.**

ST. BARNABAS' DAY.

*Money (as offered to God).  
Self-oblation.*



"Barnabas, having land, sold it, and  
brought the money, and laid it at the Apostles'  
feet."—ACTS iv. 36-37.

*And all true helpers, patient, kind and  
skilful, [earth  
Who shed Thy light across our darkened  
Counsel the doubting, and restrain the wilful  
Soothe the sick-bed, and share the children'  
mirth.*

*Such was Thy Levite, strong in self-oblation  
To cast his all at Thine Apostles' feet;  
He whose new name, through every Christian  
nation,  
From age to age our thankful strain  
repeat.*

ELLERTON.

"The figs that are first ripe."—JER. xxiv. 2.

**JUNE 12.**

*First Ripe Figs—Delight.*

*Yet not so strictly hath our Lord impos'd  
Labour, as to debar us when we need  
Refreshment, whether food, or talk between:  
Food of the mind, or this sweet intercourse  
Of looks and smiles; for smiles from reason  
flow,  
To brute deny'd, and are of love the food,  
Love not the lowest end of human life.  
For not to irksome toil, but to delight  
He made us, and delight to reason join'd.*

MILTON.





## JUNE 13.

Carbuncles—Rich Blessings.



“I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles.”—ISAIAH liv. 12.

*Oh! gracious Heaven,  
Thou hast endless blessings still in store,  
For virtue and for filial piety;  
Let grief, disgrace, and want, be far away;  
But multiply Thy mercies on his head:  
Let honour, greatness, goodness, still be with  
him,  
And peace in all his ways.*

ROWE.

## JUNE 14.

“Consider the lilies of the field.”  
ST. MATT. vi. 28.

Lilies—Dependance on God.

*Lo, the lilies of the field,  
How their leaves instruction yield!  
Hark to Nature's lesson given  
By the blessed birds of Heaven!  
Every bush and tufted tree  
Warbles sweet philosophy.  
“Mortal, fly from doubt and sorrow:  
God provideth for the morrow.”*

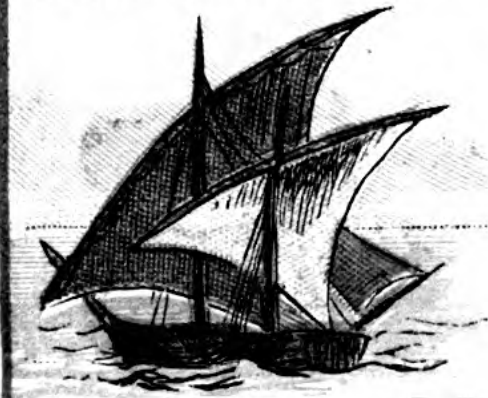
BISHOP HEBER.



## JUNE 15.

Boats—Perilous Pleasure.

“There came other boats from Tiberias.”  
ST. JOHN vi. 23



*But not even pleasure to excess is good;  
What most elates, then sinks the soul as low  
When spring-tide joy pours in with copious  
flood,  
The higher still the exulting billows flow,  
The further back again they flagging go,  
And leave us grovelling on the dreary shore.*

THOMSON.





"The hay appeareth, and the herbs of the mountains are gathered."

PROVERBS xxvii. 25.

*When Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil;  
When Summer's balmy showers refresh the mowers toil;  
When Winter binds in frosty chains the fallow and the flood,  
In God the earth rejoiceth still, and owns his Maker good.*

BISHOP HEBER.

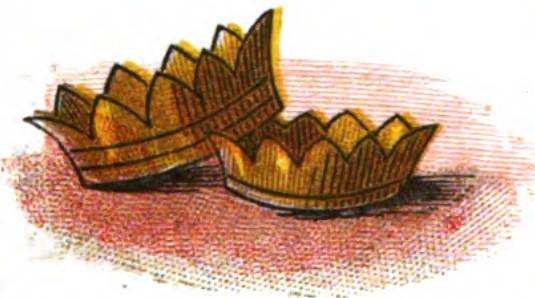
JUNE 16.

Hay—The Goodness of God.



JUNE 17.

Crowns of Gold—Glory.



"They had on their heads crowns of gold and cast their crowns before the throne."

REVELATIONS iv. 4-10

*Holy, Holy, Holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around  
The glassy sea;  
Cherubim and Seraphim falling down before  
Thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore  
shall be.*

BISHOP HEBER.

"We remember . . . the cucumbers and the melons; but now our soul is dried away."

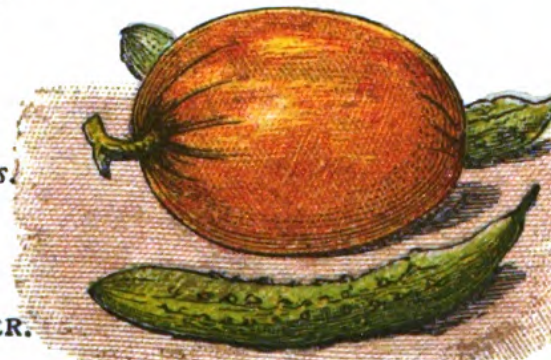
NUMBERS xi. 5-6.

*As year succeeds to year, the more  
Imperfect life's fruition seems;  
Our dreams, as baseless as of yore,  
Are not the same enchanting dreams.  
Ah, vain regret! to few, perchance,  
Unknown—and profitless to all.*

F. LOCKER.

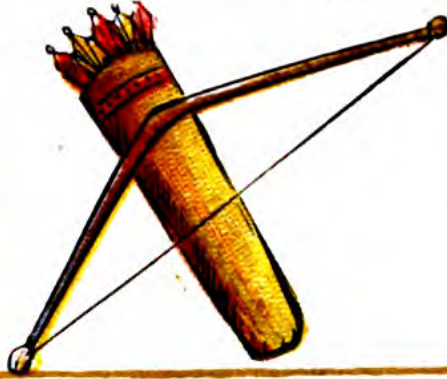
JUNE 18.

Cucumbers and Melons.  
Vain Regret.



**JUNE 19.**

*A Bow of Steel.  
Imparted Strength.*



“He teacheth my hands to war: so that  
bow of steel is broken by mine arms.”

2 SAMUEL xxii. 35.

*Gods of the world! ye warrior host  
Of darkness and of air,  
In vain is all your impious boast,  
In vain each missile lightening tost,  
In vain the tempter's snare!  
Though fast and far your arrows fly  
Though mortal nerve and bone,  
Shrink in convulsive agony,  
The Christian can your rage defy;  
Towers o'er his head salvation's crest,  
Faith like a buckler guards his breast.  
Undaunted, though alone. BISHOP HEBER*

“Sluices and ponds for fish,”

ISAIAH xix. 10.

*But pleasures are like poppies spread,  
You seize the flower, its bloom is shed;  
Or like the snowfall in the river,  
A moment white—then melts for ever;  
Or like the borealis race,  
That flit ere you can point their place;  
Or like the rainbows lovely form  
Evanishing amid the storm.*

BURNS.

**JUNE 20.**

*Fish Ponds—Summer Pleasure*



**JUNE 21.**

*The Harp—Inspiration.*



“David took an harp, and played with  
hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well.”

1 SAMUEL xvi. 23.

*It soften'd men of iron mould,  
It gave them virtues not their own;  
No ear so dull, no soul so cold,  
That felt not, fired not to the tone,  
Till David's lyre grew mightier than his  
throne!*

BYRON





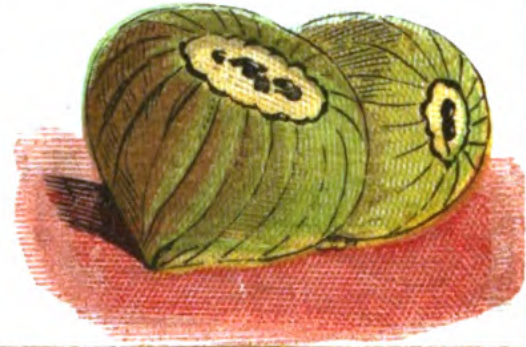
"A gatherer of Sycomore fruit."  
 AMOS vii. 14.

*When on the verdant mead you tread,  
 And soothe your heart with Nature's charms,  
 Think of the land above your head,  
 Which Spring, and Spring eternal, warms:  
 Where ripen fruits on earth unknown,  
 And flowers without, or blight, or thorn,  
 Though great the God whose word alone  
 Could thus with flowers the earth adorn—  
 Yet cull in thought those fadeless flowers,  
 And seek in heart those happier bowers.*

BYNNS.

JUNE 22.

*Sycomore Fruit.*  
 Foretaste of better things.



JUNE 23.

*Still Waters—Tranquility.*



"He leadeth me beside the still waters,"  
 PSALM xxiii. 2.

*There is a pure and tranquil wave  
 That rolls around the throne of love,  
 Whose waters gladden as they lave  
 The peaceful shore above.  
 The Pilgrim faint, and nigh to sink  
 Beneath his load of earthly woe,  
 Refreshed beside their verdant brink,  
 Rejoices in their flow.*

BAILL.

"Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,"—EPHESIANS vi. 14.

"The same John had a leathern girdle about his loins."—ST. MATT. iii. 4. [fought  
*Servant of God, well done, well hast thou  
 The better fight, who single hast maintain'd  
 Against revolted multitudes the cause  
 Of truth, in word mightier than they in  
 arms;*

*And for the testimony of truth hast borne  
 Universal reproach, far worse to bear  
 Than violence: for this was all thy care,  
 To stand approv'd in sight of God, though  
 worlds*

*Judged thee perverse.*

MILTON.

JUNE 24.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S DAY.  
*A Leathern Girdle.*  
 Unflinching Truth.



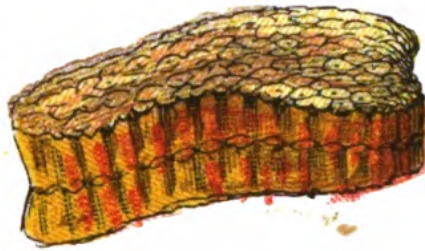


**JUNE 25.**

*An Honeycomb.  
Pleasant Words.*

**"Pleasant words are as an honeycomb."**

PROVERBS xvi. 24.



*A little word in kindness spoken,  
A motion, or a tear;  
Has often healed the heart that's broken,  
And made a friend sincere.*

J. G. WHITTIER.

**JUNE 26.**

**"The shadow of a great rock in a weary land."—ISAIAH xxxii. 2.**

*The Shadow of a Great Rock  
Protection.*

*"Thy prophets, and Thy preachers, Lord,  
through all the earth have sought  
Emblems of Thee, whose sole command  
that earth from chaos wrought,  
But never truer one than this was found,  
nor one more grand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock upon a weary  
land."*

UNKNOWN.



**JUNE 27.**

*A Little Cloud.  
Foresadowing of Blessing.*

**"Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out  
the sea, like a man's hand."**

I KINGS xviii.



*If the Celestials daily fly  
With messages on missions high,  
And float, our masts and turrets nigh,  
Conversing on Heaven's great intents;  
What wonder hints of coming things,  
Whereto man's hope and yearning clings,  
Should drop like feathers from their win  
And give us vague presentiments?*

JEAN INGELOW



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"If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength; but wisdom is profitable to direct."

ECCLESIASTES X. 10.

*So young, and yet so old,  
But when his story's told,  
What wilt thou find?  
A brow oppressed  
From want of rest,  
An over-weighted mind.*

W. T. H.

JUNE 28.

*Blunted Iron—Over-work.*



JUNE 29.

ST. PETER'S DAY.

*Broken Chains—Emancipation,*



"The angel smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly, And his chains fell off from his hands."

ACTS xii. 7

*Like him whose fetters dropp'd away  
When light shone o'er his prison;  
My spirit, touch'd by Mercy's ray,  
Hath from her chains arisen.  
And shall a soul Thou bid'st be free  
Return to bondage?—never!  
Thee; O God, and only Thee,  
I live for, now and ever.*

MOORE.

JUNE 30.

"The angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness," *A Fountain in the Wilderness.*  
*Refreshment.*

GENESIS xvi. 7.

*From the cool cisterns of the midnight air  
My spirit drank repose;  
The fountain of perpetual peace flows there,  
From those deep cisterns flows.*

LONGFELLOW.



## JULY 1.

*A Basket of Figs.  
A Type of Perfection.*



*"One basket had very good figs."  
JEREMIAH xxiv.*

*Nought see we here, as yet in full perfection  
Nought reaching yet unto its true ideal  
Lost to our careless sight is that connection  
Which knitted once the perfect to the real  
Thus every character whate'er its sweetness  
Is but a fruit all blighted and unripe;  
Still ever striving towards its own com-  
pleteness,  
Still ever yearning towards its high-  
type.*

L.

*"Let us make a little chamber; and let us  
set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool,  
and a candlestick: and it shall be when he  
cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither."*

2 KINGS iv. 10.

*"Thou art to me most like a royal guest,  
Whose travels bring him to some lowly  
roof,  
Where simple rustics spread their festal  
fare,  
And, blushing, own it is not good  
enough."*

JULIA HOWE.

## JULY 2.

*A Guest Chamber—Welcome*



## JULY 3.

*Tares among Wheat.  
Life on Earth.*



*"Wilt thou, then, that we go and gather  
them up? But he said, Nay; lest while  
gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat  
with them."—ST. MATT. xiii. 28-29.*

*"All the world is God's own field,  
Fruit unto His praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown:  
First the blade, and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of Harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be."*

DEAN ALFORD.





"How oft would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not."  
ST. MATT. xxiii. 37.

JULY 4.

A Hen—Parental Care.

"O Love! Divine, and golden!  
Mysterious depth and height!  
To Thee, the world, beholden,  
Looks up for life and light!  
O Love! Divine and gentle!  
The Blessor and the blest:  
Beneath whose care parental  
The world lies down to rest?"

L. C. C.



JULY 5.

A Fleece of Wool.  
A Token,



"I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said."—JUDGES vi. 37.

Thanks for the sympathies that ye have shown!  
Thanks for each kindly word, each silent token,  
That teaches me, when seeming most alone,  
Friends are around us, though no word be spoken.

LONGFELLOW.

"Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries?"—ST. JAMES iii. 12.

JULY 6.

Olive Berries—Intrinsic Value.

A modest blush adorns her face,  
Her air, an unaffected grace:  
No art she knows, or seeks to know;  
No charm to wealthy pride, will owe:  
No gems, no gold, she needs to wear;  
She shines, intrinsically fair.

BEDINGFIELD.





## JULY 7.

*A Chrysolite—Purity.*



“The city was garnished with precious stones; the seventh, a chrysolite.”

REVELATIONS XXI. 19-

“Blessed are the pure in heart.”

ST. MATTHEW V.

*Thy turrets and Thy pinnacles  
With carbuncles do shine,  
With jasper, pearl, and chrysolite,  
Surpassing pure and fine.*

DAVID DICKSON

“The priest of Jupiter, brought garlands, and would have done sacrifice.”

ACTS XIV. 13.

*Bring flowers to the shrine where we kneel  
in prayer;  
They are Nature's offering, their place  
is THERE!  
They speak of hope to the fainting heart,  
With a voice of promise, they come and  
part,  
They sleep in dust, through the wintry  
hours,  
They break forth in glory—bring flowers,  
bright flowers!*

UNKNOWN.

## JULY 8.

*Garlands—Signs of Festivity.*



## JULY 9.

*A Pool—Coolness.*



“The parched ground shall become a pool”

ISAIAH XXXV. 7

*An Elim, with its coolness,  
Its fountains, and its shade!  
A blessing in its fulness,  
When buds of promise fade!  
O'er tears of soft contrition,  
I've seen a rainbow light;  
A glory and fruition,  
So near!—yet out of sight.*

JANE CREWDS



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"I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together."

ISAIAH xli. 19.

'Tis woman's to nourish affections tree,  
And its fruit domestic bliss shall be ;  
'Tis her's to culture with patient toil  
Each heaven-born plant in the heart's  
deep soil ;  
And fruits and flowers her toil shall greet,  
Richest flavours and odours on earth  
that meet.

UNKNOWN.

JULY 10.

Box Tree—Cultivation.



JULY 11.

Almonds—Purity.



"Spices and myrrh, nuts and almonds."

GENESIS xliii. 11.

What brighter throne can brightness find  
To reign on than an infant's mind,  
'Ere sin destroy, or error dim  
The glory of the Seraphim?  
Oh! vision fair; that I could be  
Again as young, as pure, as thee!

WILSON.

"The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament."

ISAIAH xix. 8.

I, in these flowery meads would be,  
These crystal streams should solace me;  
To whose harmonious, bubbling noise,  
I with my angle would rejoice.

\* \* \* \* \*

There bid good morning to each day,  
There meditate my time away;  
And angle on: and beg to have  
A quiet passage to a welcome grave.

IZAACK WALTON.

JULY 12.

An Angle.  
Solace in Sadness.



## JULY 13.

*Sweet Cane.*  
Pleasure from Agar.



“To what purpose cometh there to me  
cense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a  
countrꝝ?—JEREMIAH vi. 20

*And camels rich, from Midian's tents  
Shall lay their treasures down before thee,  
And Saba bring her gold and scents,  
To fill thy air and sparkle o'er thee.*

MOOR

## JULY 14.

*A Cluster of Grapes.*  
The Profusion of God's Gift

‘They came unto the brook of Eshcol, and  
cut down from thence a branch with one cluster  
of grapes, and they bear it between two upon a  
staff.’—NUMBERS xiii. 23.

*Down through the golden leaves the sun was  
pouring his splendours,  
Gleaming on purple grapes, that, from  
branches above them suspended,  
Mingled their odorous breath with the balm  
of the pine and the fir tree,  
Wild and sweet as the clusters that grew in  
the valley of Eshcol.*

LONGFELLOW.



## JULY 15.

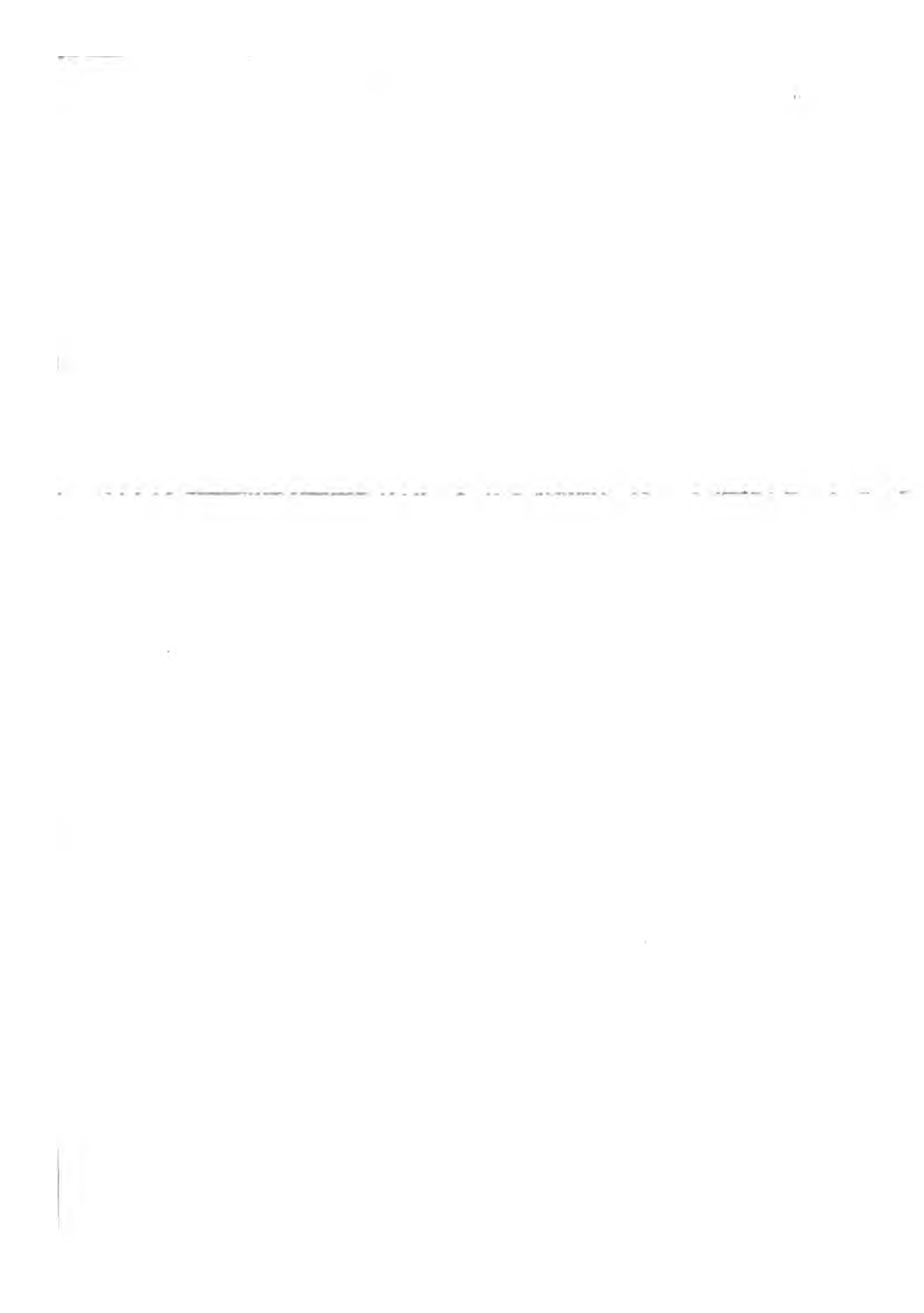
*A Sickle—Husbandry.*



“Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe  
—JOEL iii. 13

*Labour is health! Lo, the husbandman  
reaping,  
How through his veins goes the life  
current, leaping!  
How his strong arm in its stalwart  
pride, sweeping,  
True as a sunbeam, the swift sickle  
guides.*

OSGOOD





"At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn."—ST. MATT. xii. 1.

*The corn springs up, and wealth untold,  
A sight to gladden young and old,  
Who now their voices lift  
To Him who gives such plenteous store,  
And makes the cup of life run o'er  
With many a noble gift.*

PAUL GERHARDT.

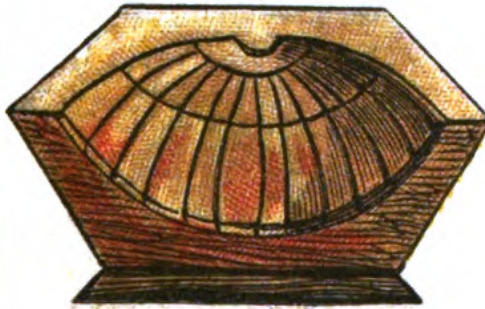
JULY 16.

*The Corn—Divine Bounty.*



JULY 17.

*A Sundial—A Measure of Time.*



"The shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sundial of Ahaz."

ISAIAH xxxviii. 8.

*We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not  
breaths;  
In feelings, not in figures on a dial:  
We should count time by heart throbs; he  
most lives  
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts  
the best;  
And he whose heart beats quickest, lives the  
longest.*

P. F. BAILEY.

"Thus hath the Lord God shewed unto me; and behold, a basket of summer fruit."

AMOS viii. 1.

*But soon, to please her more,  
Whom flowers alone I knew would little  
please,  
Let fall the unfinished wreath, and roved  
for fruit; | 'tis true,  
Roved far, and gathered much; some harsh,  
Picked from the thorns and briers of reproof,  
But wholesome, well digested; grateful some  
To palates, that can taste immortal truth;  
Insipid else, and sure to be despised,  
But all is in His hand, whose praise I seek.*

COWPER.

JULY 18.

*A Basket of Summer Fruit.  
Pleasure and Value.*





## JULY 19.

Dates—Sweetness.



“The children of Israel brought in abundance the first fruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey (dates, *vide margin*) and of all increase of the field.”—2 CHRON. xxxi. 5.

.. While I sit with thee, I seem in Heaven  
And sweeter thy discourse is to my ear  
Than fruits of palm-tree, pleasantest  
thirst

And hunger both, from labour, at the hour  
Of sweet repast: they satiate, and soon fill  
Though pleasant: but thy words, with grace  
divine

Imbued, bring to their sweetness no satiety  
MILTON

“She said, If pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.”

RUTH ii. 7.

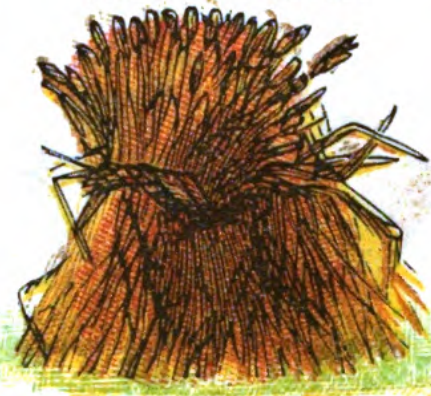
Last of the labourers, Thy feet, I gain,  
Lord of the harvest! and my spirit grieves  
That I am burdened, not so much with grain,  
As with a heaviness of heart and brain;  
Master, behold my sheaves!

Few, light and worthless—yet their trifling  
weight [leaves;  
Through all my frame a weary aching  
For long I struggled with my hopeless fate,  
And stayed and toiled till it was dark and  
late,

Yet these are all my sheaves! E. AKERS.

## JULY 20.

Sheaves of Corn.  
Fruits of Labour.



## JULY 21.

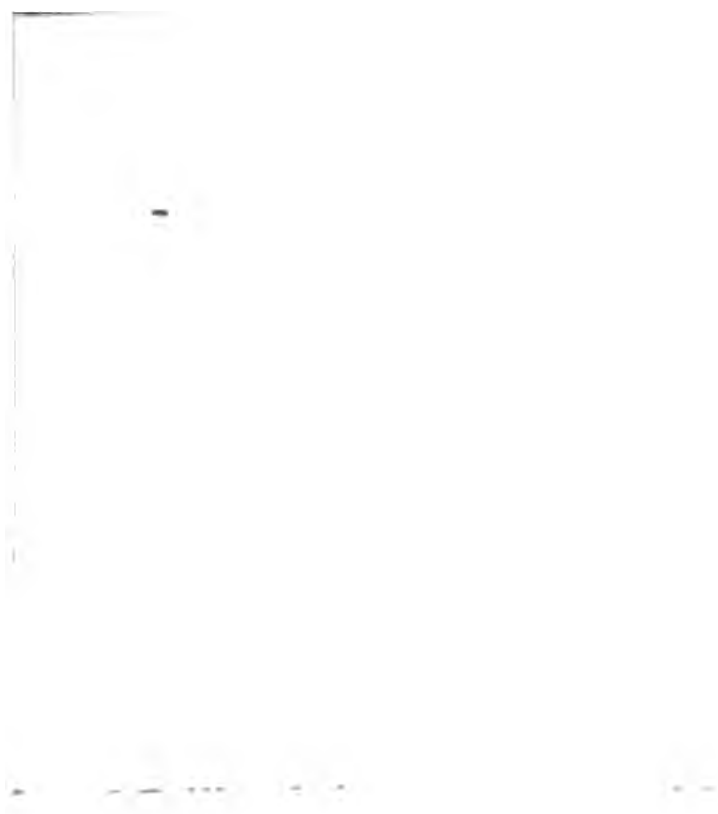
A Cedar—Righteousness.



“The righteous shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon.”—PSALM xcii. 12.

He lives, who lives to God alone,  
And all are dead beside:  
For other source than God, is none,  
Whence life can be supplied.  
To live to God, is to requite  
His love, as best we may;  
To make His precepts our delight,  
His promises, our stay.

COWPER



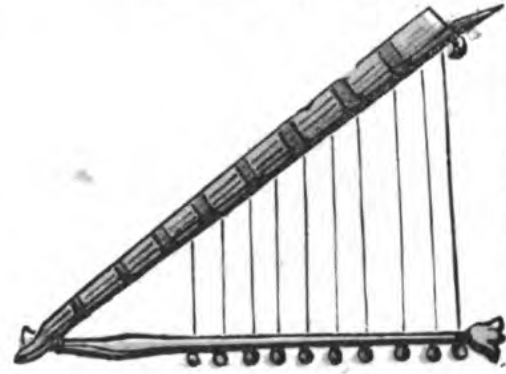


"I will sing a new song unto thee, O God; upon a psaltery, and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee." PSALM cxliv. 9.

JULY 22.

An Instrument of Ten Strings  
Sacred Melody.

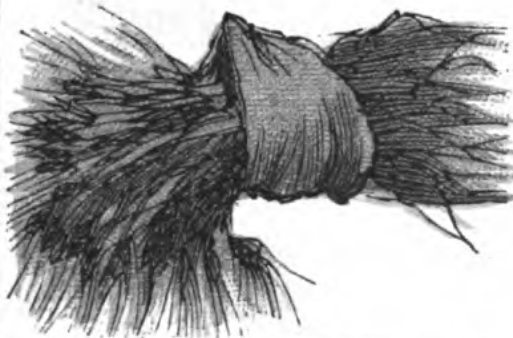
If well I know the tuneful art  
To captivate an human heart,  
The glory, Lord, be thine,  
A servant of Thy blessed will,  
I here devote my utmost skill  
To sound Thy praise divine.  
Thine own musician, Lord, inspire,  
And let my consecrated lyre  
Repeat the psalmists part;  
His son, and Thine, reveal in me,  
And fill with sacred melody  
The fibres of my heart. C. WESLEY.



JULY 23.

An Ephah of Barely—Industry.

"She gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned; and it was about an ephah of barley."—RUTH ii. 17.



I know these blossoms clustering heavily,  
With evening dew upon their folded leaves  
Can claim no value or utility.  
Therefore shall fragrancy and beauty be  
The glory of my sheaves.

So do I gather strength and hope anew:  
For well I know Thy patient love perceives  
Not what I did, but what I strove to do;  
And though the full ripe ears be sadly few,  
Thou wilt accept my sheaves.

E. AKERS.

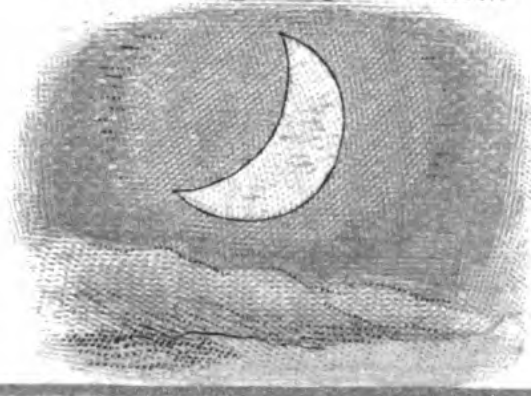
"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him?"—PSALM viii. 3-4.

JULY 24.

The Moon.  
The Glory of the Creation.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Soon as the evening shades prevail  
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,  
And nightly to the listening earth,  
Repeats the story of her birth;  
While all the stars that round her burn,  
And all the planets in their turn,  
Confirm the tidings as they roll,  
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

ADDISON.



**JULY 25.**  
**ST. JAMES' DAY.**  
*Olive Shade.*  
 Shadow of Coming Trial.



"They went out into the Mount of Olives and he taketh with him Peter, and James, and John; and saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, unto death: tarry ye here and watch."—ST. MARK xiv. 26-33-34.

*Who knelt beneath the olive shade,  
 Who drank Thy cup of pain,  
 And passed from Herod's flashing sword  
 To see Thy face again.*

*Lord give us grace, and give us love,  
 Like Him, to leave behind  
 Earth's cares and joys, and look above  
 With true and earnest mind.*

C. F. ALEXANDER

"The principal wheat, and the appointed barley, and the rye, in their place."  
 ISAIAH xxviii. 25.

\* \* \* \* \*  
*But chiefly when Thy liberal hand  
 Scatters new plenty o'er the land,  
 When sounds of music fill the air,  
 As homeward all their treasures bear;  
 We too will raise  
 Our hymn of praise,  
 For we Thy common bounties share.*

GURNEY.

**JULY 26.**  
 Rye—Plenty.



**JULY 27.**  
*Plants grown up in their Youth.*  
 Manly Excellence.



"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth"—PSALM cxliv. 12.  
*If thou indeed wilt be what scholars show,  
 If thou wilt be a hero, and wilt strive  
 To help thy fellow and exalt thyself,  
 Thy feet, at last, shall stand on jasper  
 floors:  
 Thy heart, at last, shall seem a thousand  
 hearts,  
 Each single heart with myriad raptures  
 filled,  
 While thou shalt sit with princes and with  
 kings,  
 Rich in the jewel of a ransomed soul.*

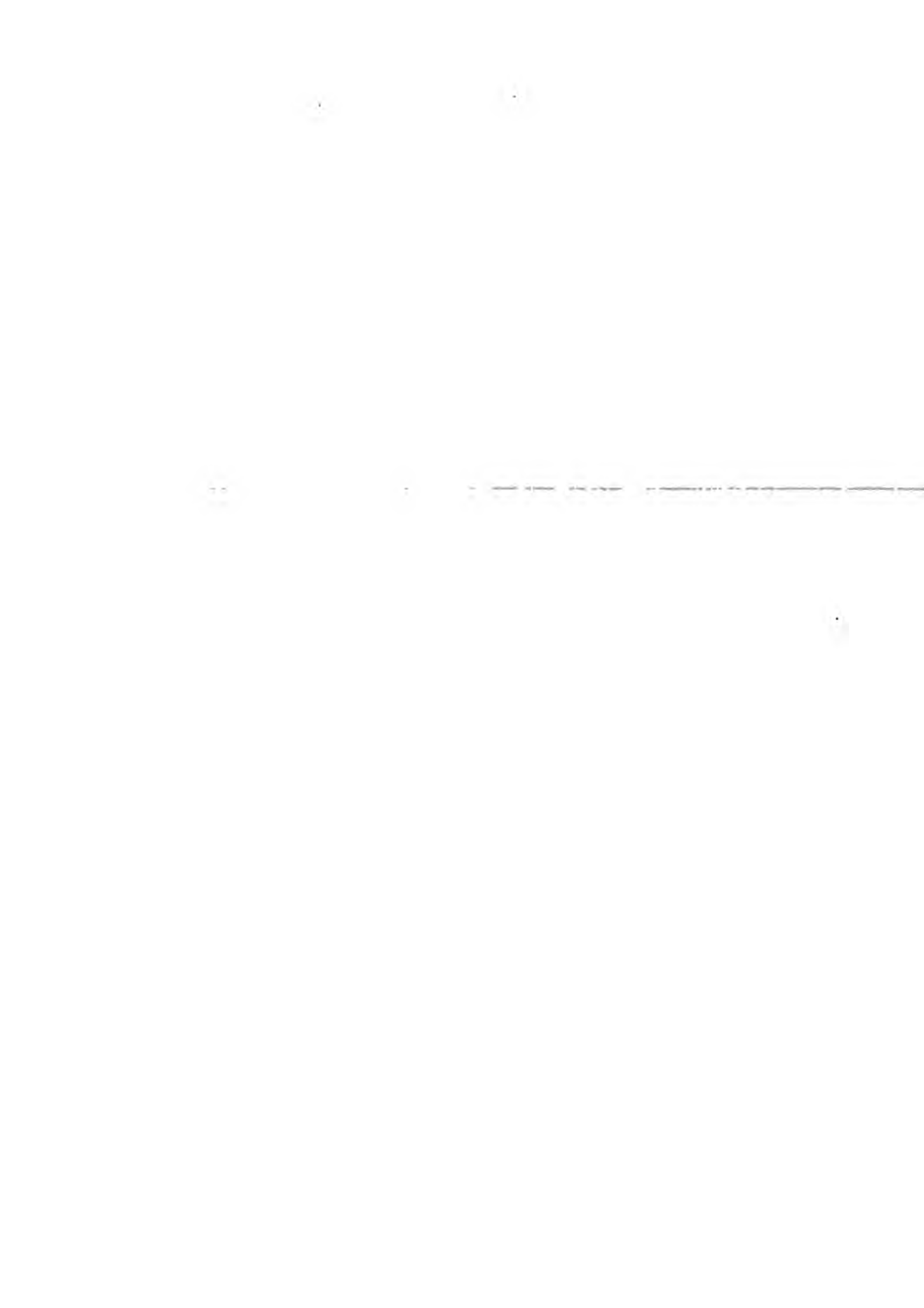
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3. The second part of the document is a list of names and titles, including "The Hon. Mr. Justice" and "The Hon. Mr. Justice".

4.



"That our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace."—PSALM cxliv. 12.

'Tis woman's to bind up the broken heart,  
And to soften the bleeding spirit's smart:  
With the balm that in Gilead's garden  
grows,  
With the stream that from Calvary's  
fountain flows;  
And to light, in this world of sin and  
pain,  
The lamp of love, and of joy, again.

UNKNOWN.

JULY 28.

Polished Corners.  
Feminine Graces.



JULY 29.

Soft Raiment—Ambition.



"What went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses." ST. MATT. xi. 8.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away Ambition;  
By that sin fell the Angels; how can man then,  
The image of his Maker, hope to win by it?  
Love thyself last; cherish those hearts that hate thee;  
Corruption wins not more than honesty.  
Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,  
To silence envious tongues. SHAKESPEARE.

JULY 30.

Shepherds' Tents.  
Watchfulness.

"Go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents."—CANTICLES i. 8.

On Alpine heights the herdsman tends his  
herd,—  
His Shepherd is the Lord;  
For He who feeds the sheep,  
Will sure His offspring keep.—  
On Alpine heights a loving Father dwells.

KRUMMACHER.





## JULY 31.

*Grapes left on the branch.  
Consideration for others.*



*"Thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape; thou shalt leave them for the poor and the stranger."*

LEVITICUS XIX. 10.

*He worked, and bravely he fulfilled his trust—  
So long he wandered sowing worthy seed,  
Watering of wayside buds that were a-dust—  
And touching for the common ear his reed—  
So long to wear away the cankering rust  
That dulls the gold of life—so long to plead  
With sweetest music for all souls oppressed,  
That he was old ere he had thought of rest.*

JEAN INGELOW.

## AUGUST 1.

*The Harvest—Joy.*

*"They joy before thee, according to the joy  
in harvest."—ISAIAH IX. 3.*

*Lord of the harvest! Thee we hail:  
Thine ancient promise doth not fail:  
The varying seasons haste their round,  
With goodness till our years are crowned;  
Our thanks we pay  
This holy day:  
O let our hearts in tune be found!*

GURNEY.



## AUGUST 2.

*Distant Hills—Steadfastness.*



*"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."—PSALM CXXI. 1.*

*Cheerful, O Lord! at Thy command  
I bind my sandals on:  
I take my pilgrim's staff in hand,  
And go to seek the better land,  
The way Thy feet have gone.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*There peaceful hills and holy vales  
Sleep in eternal day;  
While rivers, deep and silent, glide  
'Twixt meads and groves on either side  
Through which the blessed stray.*

UNKNOWN.





"He maketh peace in thy borders, and  
filleth thee with the finest of the wheat,"  
PSALM cxlvii. 14

*If to entreat  
A crop of purest wheat,  
A blessing too transcendent should appear  
For me to bear;  
Lord, make me what Thou wilt, so Thou  
What Thou dost make, [wilt take  
And not disdain  
To house me, though among Thy coarsest  
So I may be [grain:  
Laid with Thy gleanings gathered by Thee;  
When the full sheaves are spent,  
I am content.* FRANCIS QUARLES.

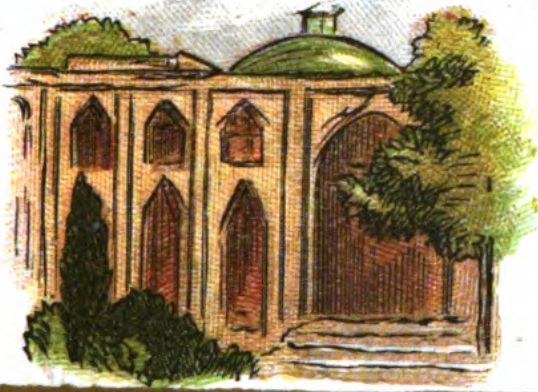
## AUGUST 3.

*The Finest of the Wheat.  
Peculiar Excellence.*



## AUGUST 4.

*The Court of the Garden.  
Type of the Heavenly Feast.*



"The king made a feast in the court of the  
garden of the king's palace."—ESTHER i. 5.

*The festal lamps are lighting now  
In the great marriage hall;  
By angel-hands the board is spread,  
By angel-hands the sacred bread  
Is on the golden table laid;  
The king his own doth call.*

BONAR.

"Jesus stood on the shore; but the disciples  
knew not that it was Jesus."

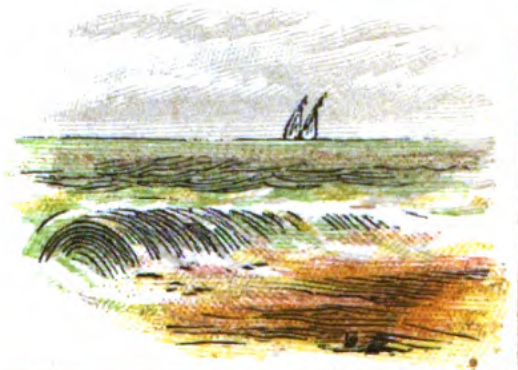
ST. JOHN xxi. 4-8.

"Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the  
great waters, and thy footsteps are not known."  
PSALM lxxvii. 19.

*There is a rapture on the lonely shore,  
There is society, where none intrudes,  
By the deep sea, and music in its roar:  
I love not man the less, but Nature more,  
From these our interviews, in which I steal  
From all I may be, or have been before,  
To mingle with the universe, and feel  
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all  
conceal.* BYRON.

## AUGUST 5.

*The Sea Shore.  
A Charm of Nature.*



## AUGUST 6.

*The Hawk.*  
Heaven-sent Instincts.



“Both the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south?”  
JOB xxxix. 26.

*Who taught the hawk to find, in season  
wise,  
Perpetual summer, and a change of skies  
When clouds deform the year, she mounts the  
wind,  
Shoots to the South, nor fears the storm  
behind.  
The sun, returning, she returns again,  
Lives in his beams, and leaves ill days  
man.*  
YOUNG.

“Ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”

ST. MATT. xxiii. 23.

*Whate’r our thoughts or purpose be  
They cannot reach their destined end,  
Unless, O God, they go with Thee,  
And with Thy thoughts and purpose  
blend.  
Keep time with God, and then the power,  
Which in His mighty arm doth lie,  
Shall crown the designated hour  
With wisdom, strength, and victory.*

UPHAM.

## AUGUST 7.

*Mint Anise and Cummin,*  
Punctiliousness.



## AUGUST 8.

*A Tabret (or Tambourine).*  
Rejoicing.



“Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.”

JEREMIAH xxxi. 4

*The night of sorrow shall be turned to day  
Her two blue windows faintly she utters  
heaveth,  
Like the fair sun, when in his fresh array  
He cheers the morn, and all the world  
relieveth:  
And as the bright sun glorifies the sky,  
So is her face illumined with her eye.*





## AUGUST 9.

*A Fruitful Garden.  
Need of Divine Culture.*

"I made me gardens and orchards, and  
planted trees in them of all kinds of fruits."

ECCLESIASTES ii. 5.

*But help me; let Thy heavenly showers  
Revive and bless my fainting powers,  
And let me thrive and grow,  
Beneath the summer of Thy grace,  
And fruits of faith bud forth apace  
While yet I dwell below.*

PAUL GERHARDT.



## AUGUST 10.

*Grapes fully Ripe.  
Maturity.*



"Gather the clusters of the vine of the  
earth; for her grapes are fully ripe"

REVELATION xiv. 18.

*Depending vines the shelving caverns screen,  
With purple clusters blushing through the  
green.*

POPE.

*She taught us how to live,  
With blameless life, girt round with sanctity;  
Lowly in heart, in soul, and purpose high,  
Sweet lessons did she give  
Of faith, of love, of hope; for all that shone  
Brightest in Christian lives, she made her  
own.*

BURLEIGH.

## AUGUST 11.

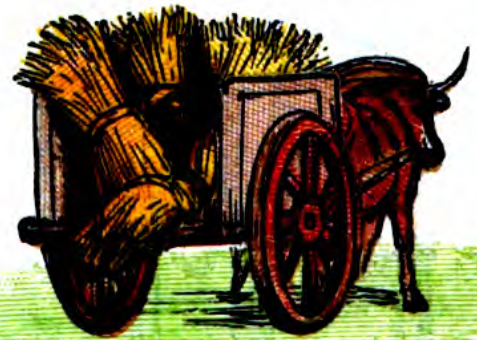
*A Cart loaded with Sheaves.  
Divine Munificence.*

"A cart is pressed that is full of sheaves."

AMOS ii. 13.

*Ye forests bend, ye harvests wave to Him;  
Breathe your still song into the reaper's  
heart  
As none he goes, beneath the joyous moon.*

THOMSON.





## AUGUST 12.

*A Garment of Fine Linen and Purple—Honourable Distinction.*



Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel: with a garment of fine linen and purple; and the Jews had light and joy, and gladness, and honour."

ESTHER viii. 15-1

*If thou, indeed, wilt be what scholars show  
If thou wilt be a hero, and will strive  
To help thy fellow, and exalt thyself,  
Thy feet at last shall stand on jasper floor  
Thy heart at last shall seem a thousand  
hearts—*

*Each single heart with myriad rapture fill  
While thou shalt sit with princes and with  
kings*

*Rich in the jewel of a ransomed soul. AN*

## AUGUST 13.

*An Ensign (or Banner)  
A Signal.*

"See ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains."—ISAIAH xviii. 3.

*The shades of night were falling fast,  
As through an Alpine village passed,  
A youth, who bore, 'mid snow and ice,  
A banner, with the strange device,  
Excelsior.*

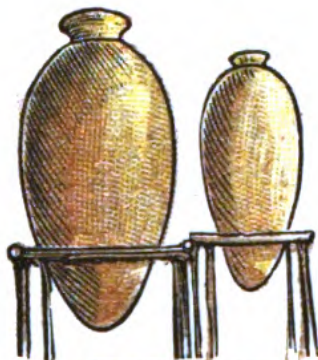
*"Beware the pine-tree's withered branch;  
Beware the awful avalanche!"  
This was the peasant's last good night!  
A voice replied, far up the height,  
Excelsior.*

LONGFELLOW



## AUGUST 14.

*Waterpots of Stone.  
Purification.*

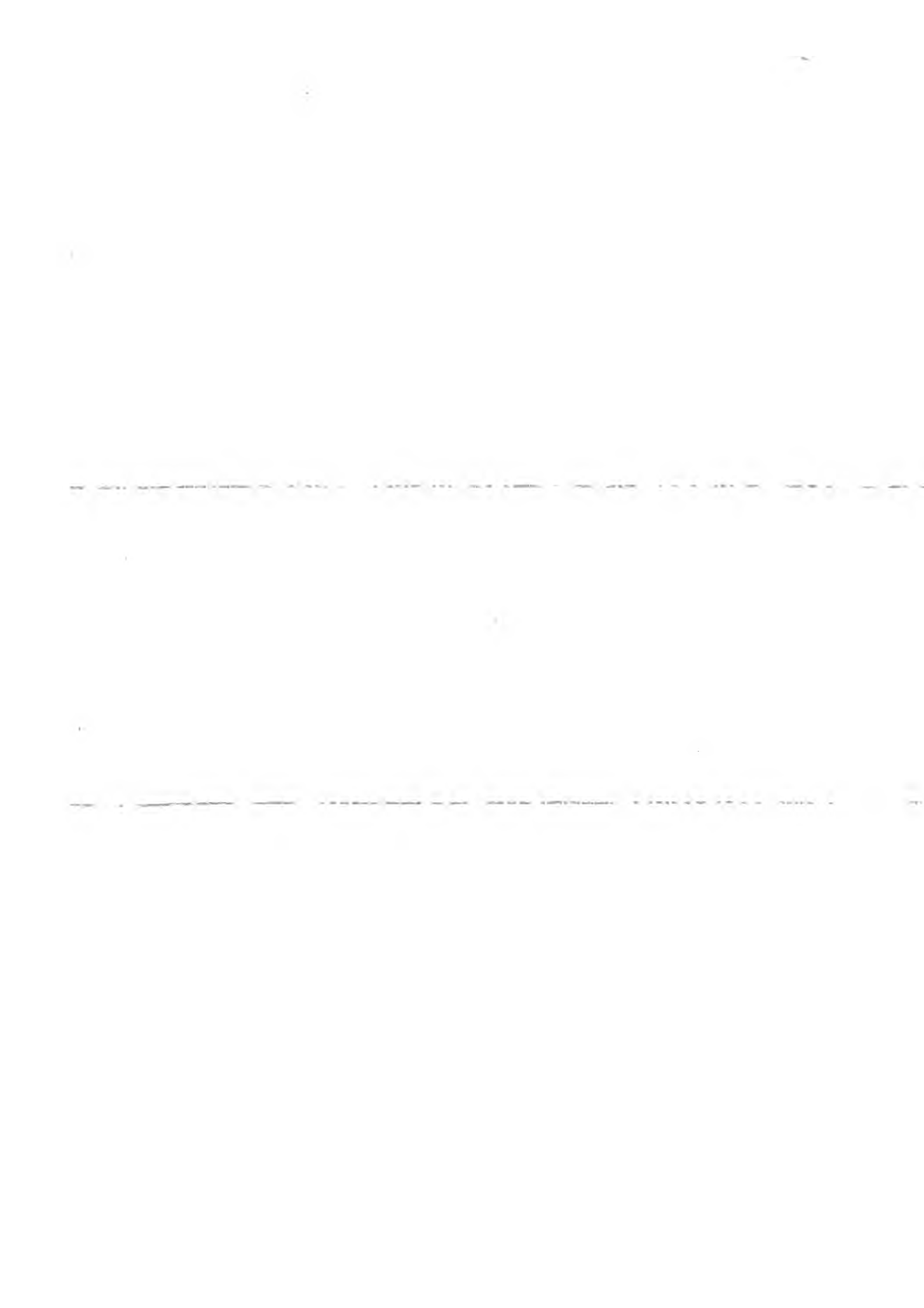


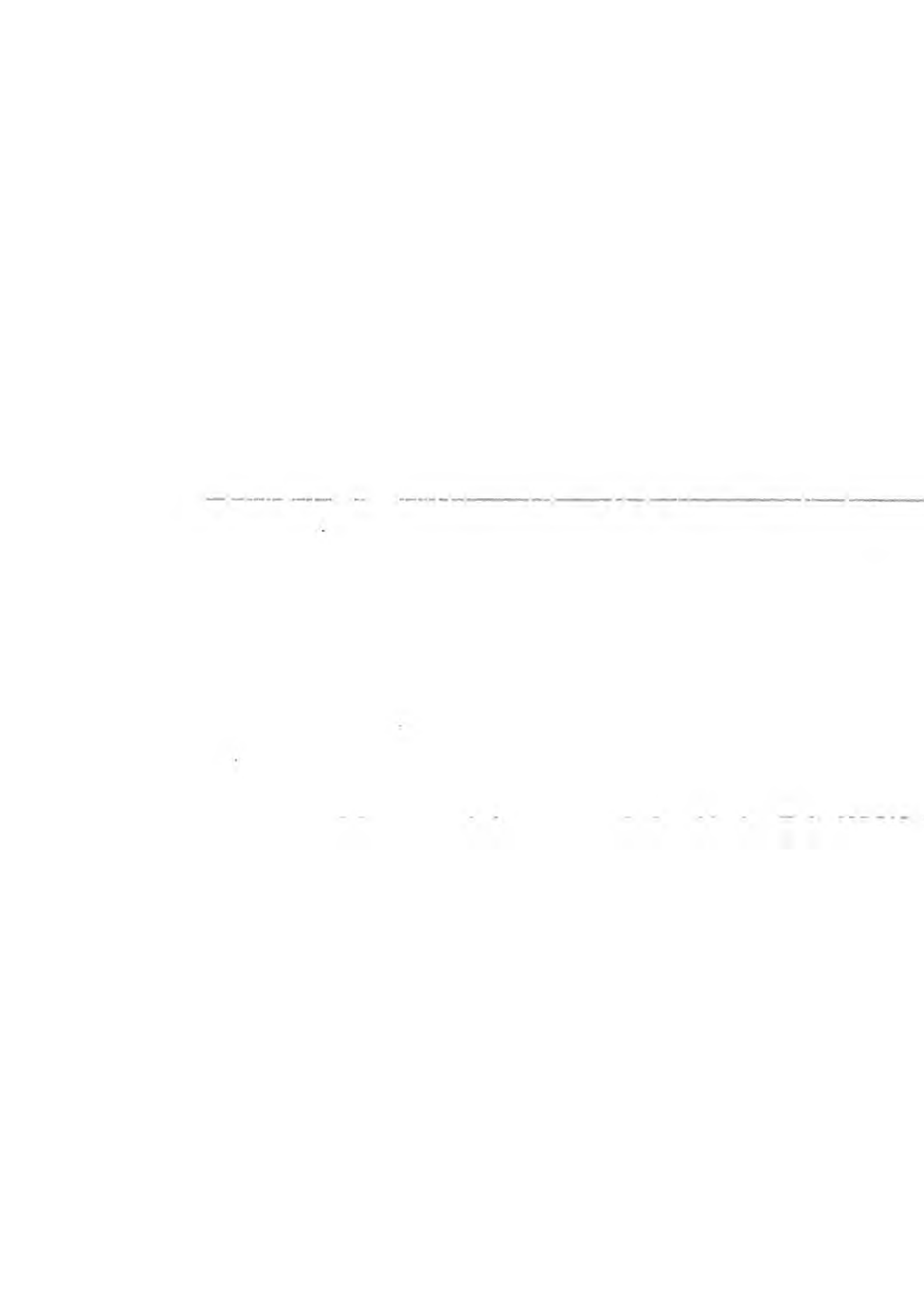
"There were set there six waterpots of stone after the manner of the purifying of the Jews"  
ST. JOHN ii. 6.

*O Thou, to whose all-searching sight  
The darkness shineth as the light,  
Search, prove my heart; it pants for Thee  
O burst these bonds, and set it free.*

*Wash out its stains, refine its dross,  
Nail my affections to the cross;  
Hallow each thought, let all within  
Be clean, as Thou, my Lord, art clean.*

CHARLES WESLEY





## AUGUST 15.

*The Gate of the Fountain.  
A Pleasant Resort.*

"I went on to the gate of the fountain, and to the king's pool."—NEHEMIAH ii. 14.

*Here at the fountain's sliding foot,  
Or at some fruit-tree's mossy root,  
Casting the body's vest aside,  
My soul into the boughs does glide ;  
There, like a bird, it sits, and sings,  
Then, whets, and claps, its silver wings,  
And still prepared for longer flight,  
Waves, in its plumes, the various light.*

MARVELL.



## AUGUST 16.

*Carved Lilies.  
Signs of Exalted Thought.*



"Upon the top of the pillars was lily-work ;  
so was the work of the pillars finished."

I KINGS vii. 22.

*He taught them, and they learned, but not the  
less*

*Remained unconscious whence that lore  
they drew,*

*But dreamed that of their native nobleness  
Some lofty thoughts that he had planted,  
grew ;*

*His glorious maxims in a lowly dress,  
Like seed sown broadcast sprung in all  
men's view,*

*The sower passing onward, was not known,  
And all men reaped the harvest as their own.*

JEAN INGELOW.

## AUGUST 17.

*Stalks of Flax.  
Preparation for Use.*

"The stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof."—JOSHUA ii. 6.

*Whoever with an earnest soul  
Strives for some end, from this low world  
afar,  
Still upward travels, though he miss the  
goal.  
Better than fame is still the wish for fame,  
The constant training, for a glorious strife.*

LORD LYTTON.



## AUGUST 18.

*An Orchard of Pomegranates.*  
Moral Fruitfulness.



"Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates  
with pleasant fruits,"—CANTICLES iv. 13.

*Pomegranate trees are planted  
In the orchard that I love,  
And fruits and camphire scented  
With spikenard hung above ;  
The calamus there groweth,  
The saffron there I find,  
There cinnamon off throweth  
The treasures of its rind.*

ARTHUR MALET

## AUGUST 19.

*An Iron Pillar*  
Strong Support.

"I have made thee this day an iron pillar."

JEREMIAH i. 18.

*Give them leave to fly, that will not stay ;  
And call them pillars, that will stand  
to us.*

SHAKESPEARE.



## AUGUST 20.

*A Grape Gatherer's Basket.*  
Receptiveness.



"Turn back thine hand as a grapegatherer in  
the basket."—JEREMIAH vi. 9.

*So may'st thou live, till like ripe fruit thou  
drop  
Into thy Mother's lap, or be with ease  
Gathered, not harshly plucked, for death  
mature.*

MILTON.

1000

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"Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she alighted off the camel; and she took a veil and covered herself."

GENESIS xxiv. 64-65.

*O God of pure affection!  
By men and saints adored,  
Who gavest Thy protection  
To Cana's nuptial board:  
May such Thy bounties ever  
To wedded love be shown,  
And no rude hand dis sever  
Whom Thou hast linked in one.*

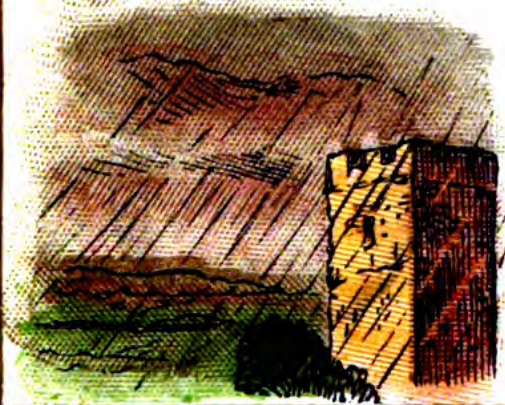
BISHOP HEBER.

**AUGUST 21.**  
*A Bridal Veil.*  
Holy Matrimony.



**AUGUST 22.**

*Showers—Rebibal.*



"As showers that water the earth."

PSALM lxxii. 6.

*Fall warm, fall fast, thou mellow rain;  
Thou rain of God, make fat the land!  
That roots which parch in burning sand,  
May bud to flower, and fruit again.*

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

"The Lord called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of good fruit."

JEREMIAH xi. 16.

*So life glides smoothly, and by stealth, away,  
More golden than that age of fabled gold  
Renowned in ancient song, not vexed with  
care,  
Or stained with guilt, beneficent, approved  
Of God and man, and peaceful in its end.  
So glide my life away!*

COWPER.

**AUGUST 23.**  
*A Green Olive Tree.*  
Approved of God.





## AUGUST 24.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY.

*A Mist—Obscurity.*



“There went up a mist from the earth.”  
GENESIS ii. 6.

*Lights, which earth-born mists  
have darkened,  
THERE are shining, full and clear,  
Princes in the Court of Heaven,  
Nameless, unremembered, here.*

*In the roll of Thine Apostles,  
One there stands, Bartholomew;  
He, for whom to day we offer,  
Year by year, our praises due.*

ELLERTON

## AUGUST 25.

*Beryl—Transparency.*

“Every precious stone was thy covering,  
the sardius, the topaz, the diamond, and the  
beryl.”—EZEKIEL xxviii. 13.

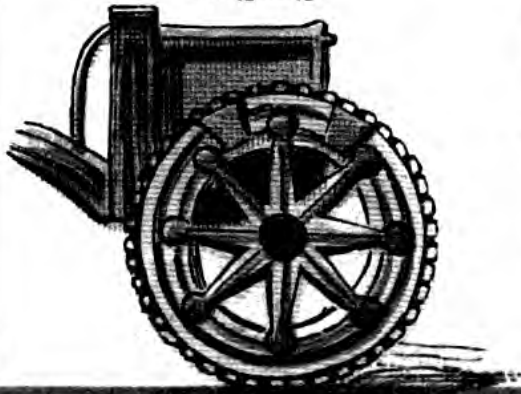
*Her soul, like the transparent air  
That robes the hills above,  
Though not of earth, encircles there,  
All things, with arms of love.*

UNKNOWN.



## AUGUST 26.

*A Chariot of Cedar.  
Royalty.*



“King Solomon made himself a chariot  
of the wood of Lebanon.”—CANTICLES iii. 2.

*A cedarn litter Solomon hath made,  
The poles of silver, and the frame of gold,  
The love of Salem's maidens wove the bed,  
And purple coverings the whole enfold.  
Come Zion's daughters, give the King  
a greeting;  
He wears the marriage chaplet on his head,  
Wherewith his Mother crowned him, as  
fitting  
The happy day when he his bride showed  
wed.*

ARTHUR MALET.





"Thy plants are Calamus and Cinnamon."  
CANTICLES iv. 13-14.

*More sweet than odours caught by him who  
sails  
Near spicy shores of Araby the blest ;  
A thousand times more exquisitely sweet  
The freight of holy feeling which we meet,  
In thoughtful moments, wafted by the gales  
From fields where good men walk,  
Or bowers wherein they rest.*

WORDSWORTH.

AUGUST 27.

*Calamus and Cinnamon.  
Fragrance.*



AUGUST 28.

*A Handful of Corn.  
Prosperity.*



"There shall be an handful of corn in the  
earth upon the top of the mountains."

PSALM lxxii. 16.

*Blent with the stream, and gale that wafts  
it o'er,  
No more the distant reapers mirth we hear ;  
The last blythe shout hath died upon our ear,  
And Harvest-home hath hushed the changing  
wain :  
On the waste hill no forms of life appear,  
Save where, sad laggard of the Autumnal  
train,  
Some age-struck wanderer gleans few ears  
of scattered grain.*

UNKNOWN.

"The key of the house of David will I lay  
upon his shoulder."—ISAIAH xxii. 22.

*O Thou that bearest David's wondrous key,  
The sceptre of United Israel !  
No foe shall enter where Thy saints shall  
dwell :  
Heaven's gates unfold their bliss to none but  
Thee.*

MEUX BENSON.

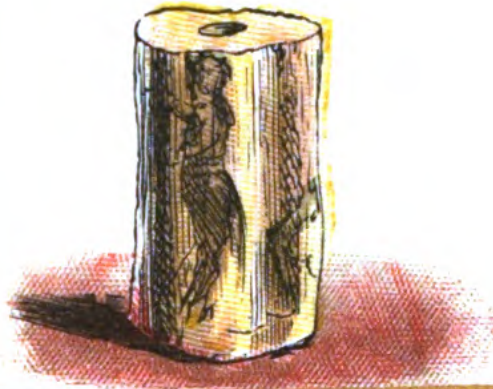
AUGUST 29.

*A Key—Power.*



## AUGUST 30.

*Crystal—Clearness.*



“He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal.”—REVELATION xxii. 1

*O Fount, O Spirit, who dost take and show  
Things of the Son to us, who crystal clear  
From God's throne and the Lamb's d  
ceaseless flow  
Into the quiet hearts that seek Thee, here  
I open wide my mouth, and thirsting, sin  
Beside Thy stream, its living waves to dri*

TERSTEEGER.

“The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee; the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together.”—ISAIAH lx. 13.

*Aloft, the ash and warrior oak  
Cast anchor in the rifted rock;  
And, higher yet, the pine-tree hung  
His shattered trunk, and frequent, flung,  
Where seem'd the cliffs to meet on high,  
His boughs athwart the narrow'd sky.* SCOTT.

*The souls  
Who shine along the path of centuries  
In full and perfect brightness, standing forth  
In their own loftiness, the beacon lights  
By which the world is guided and upborne.*

GATES PERCIVAL.

## AUGUST 31.

*The Pine Tree—Loftiness*



## SEPTEMBER 1.

*The Ephod—Type of Holiness.*



“And thou shalt make the robe of the ephod all of blue; and beneath, upon the hem of the ephod thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and bells of gold between the pomegranates, and thou shalt make them round about.”—EXODUS xxviii. 31-33

*With golden bells, the priestly vest,  
With rich pomegranates bordered ro  
The need of holiness expressed  
A call for fruit, as well as sound*

COWPER.

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## SEPTEMBER 2.

*Buckler—Protection.*

"The Lord is my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler."—PSALM xviii. 2.

*I know that deadly evils compass me,  
Dark perils threaten; yet I would not  
fear,  
Nor poorly shrink, nor feebly turn to flee;  
Thou, O my Christ, art buckler, sword,  
and spear!*

BONER.



## SEPTEMBER 3.

*Camphire—Fragrance.*



"A cluster of camphire in the vineyards of En-gedi."—CANTICLES i. 14.

*As some rare perfume in a vase of clay  
Pervades it with a fragrance not its own  
So when Thou dwellest in a mortal soul,  
All Heaven's own sweetness seems around  
it thrown.*

*The soul alone, like a neglected harp,  
Grows out of tune, and needs Thy hand  
divine.*

*Dwell thou within it, tune and touch its  
chords,*

*Till every note and string shall answer  
Thee.*

H. B. STOWE.

"The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way."

EXODUS xiii. 21.

*Praise to the Conqueror, praise to the Lord!  
His word was our arrow, His breath was  
our sword.*

*Who shall return to tell Egypt the story  
Of those she sent forth in the hour of her  
pride?*

*For the Lord hath looked out from his pillar  
of glory,  
And all her brave thousands are dashed  
in the tide.*

MOORE.

## SEPTEMBER 4.

*A Pillar of Cloud.  
The Glory of God.*





## SEPTEMBER 5.

*The Ants—Prudence.*



“The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer.”

PROVERBS xxx. 25.

*Turn to the prudent ant thy heedful eyes,  
Observe her labours, sluggard, and be  
wise:*

*No stern command, no monitory voice  
Prescribes her duties, or directs her  
choice;*

*Yet timely provident, she hastes away  
To snatch the blessings of the plenteous  
day.*

DR. JOHNSON.

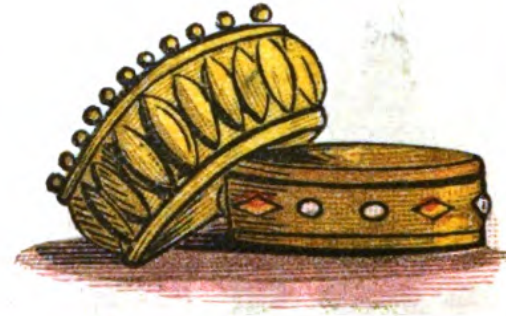
“When he saw the bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man unto me; he said, Come in, thou blessed of the Lord.”—GENESIS xxiv. 30-31.

*The Sundays of man's life,  
Threaded together on Time's string,  
Make bracelets to adorn the wife  
Of the eternal glorious King.*

GEORGE HERBERT.

## SEPTEMBER 6.

*Bracelets—Adornment.*



## SEPTEMBER 7.

*A Yoke—Willing Service.*



“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

ST. MATT. xi. 29.

*Listen! the Master beseecheth,  
Calling each one by his name:  
His voice to each loving heart reacheth,  
Its cheerfullest service to claim.  
Go where the vineyard demandeth  
Vine-dresser's nurture and care;  
Or go where the white harvest standeth,  
The joy of the reaper to share.*

PUNSHON.





When one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.—1 SAMUEL xxvi. 20.

*The partridge bursts away on whirring wing.*

BEATTIE.

*Oh! it is good to soar,  
These bolts and bars above,  
To Him whose purpose I adore,  
Whose providence I love;  
And in Thy mighty will to find  
The joy, the freedom of the mind.*

MADAME GUYON.

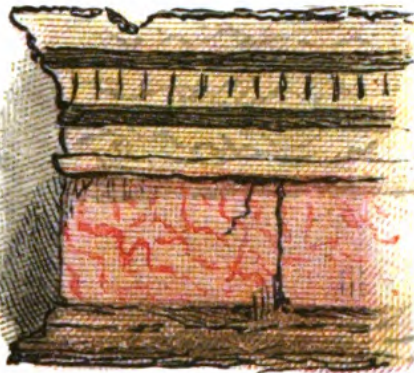
## SEPTEMBER 8.

*A Partridge—Freedom.*



## SEPTEMBER 9.

*A Precious Corner-stone.  
A Sure Foundation.*



“Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation.”—ISAIAH xxviii. 16.

*Thine ageless walls are bounded  
With amethyst unpriced:  
Thy saints build up its fabric,  
And the corner-stone is Christ.  
The cross is all thy splendour,  
The crucified thy praise;  
His laud and benediction  
Thy ransomed people raise.*

BERNARD DE MORLAIX.

“Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices.”

CANTICLES iv. 14.

*Spices crushed, their pungence yield,  
Trodden scents their sweets respire;  
Would you have its strength revealed,  
Cast the incense in the fire:  
Thus the crushed and broken frame  
Oft doth sweetest graces yield:  
And through suffering, toil, and shame,  
From the martyr's keenest flame,  
Heavenly incense is distilled.*

ADAM OF ST. VICTOR

## SEPTEMBER 10.

*Spices—Dying Sweetness.*



## SEPTEMBER 11.

*A Ring—A Mark of Favour.*



“Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph’s hand.”

GENESIS xli. 4.

*... The ring is thine,  
Each guard and usher knows the sign;  
Seek thou the King without delay;  
This signal shall secure thy way;  
And claim thy suit whate’er it be.*

SCOTT

“They could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; and the people murmured against Moses; and the Lord showed him a tree, which, when he had cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet.”

EXODUS xv. 23-24-25.

*Thus ever in the steps of grief  
Are sown the precious seeds of joy;  
Each fount of Marah hath a leaf,  
Whose healing balm we may employ.  
Then ’mid life’s fitful, fleeting day,  
Look up—the sky is bright above;  
Kind voices cheer thee on thy way—  
Faint spirit! trust the God of Love*

WOODBRIDGE.

## SEPTEMBER 12.

*A Tree cast into the Water  
Healing.*



## SEPTEMBER 13.

*A Garden of Nuts.  
Watered by God.*



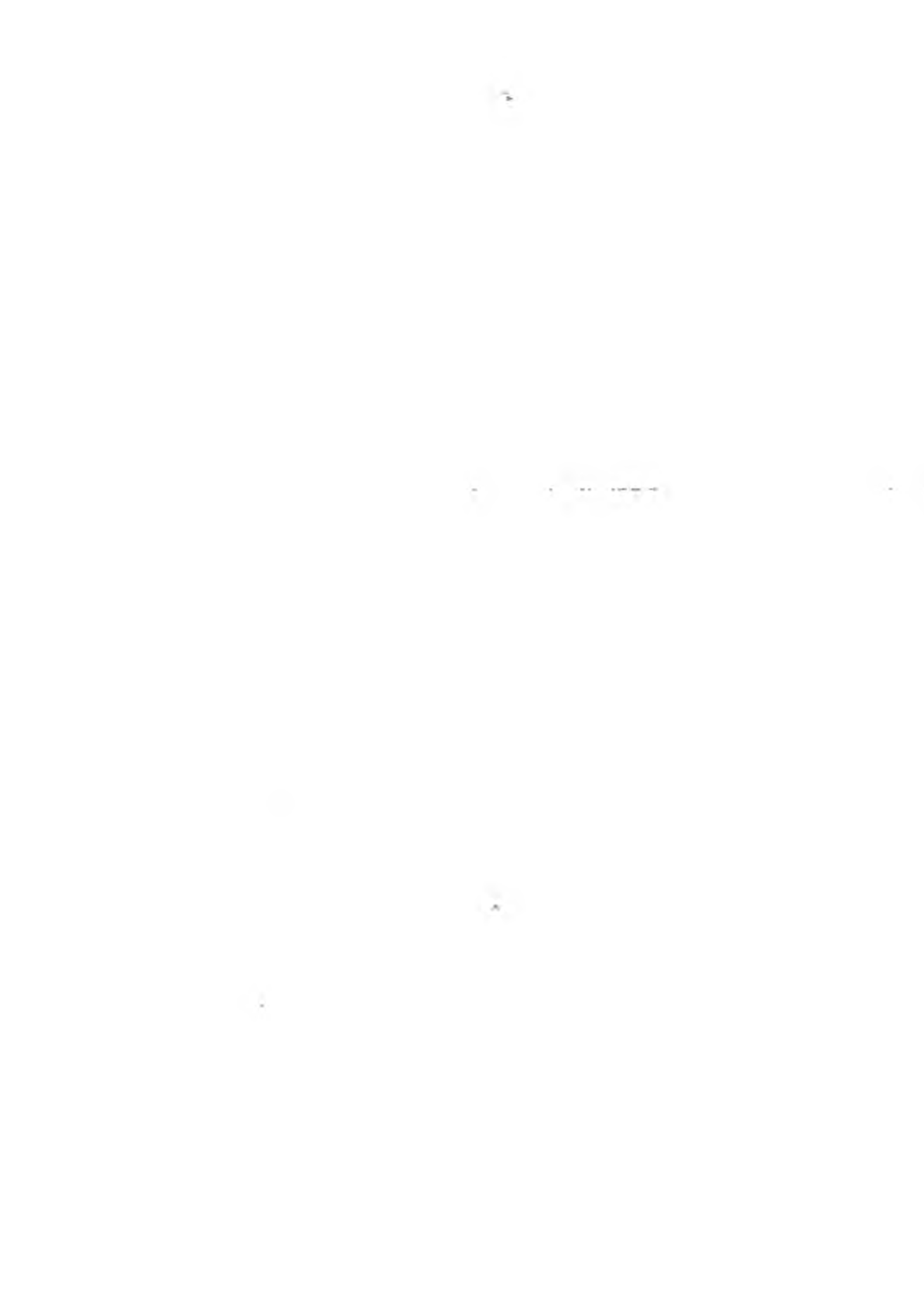
“I went down into the garden of nuts to the fruits of the valley.”

CANTICLES vi. 1

*Thy word, O Lord! like gentle dews  
Falls soft on hearts that pine;  
Lord, to Thy garden ne’er refuse  
This heavenly balm of Thine.  
Watered from Thee  
Let every tree  
Bud forth, and blossom, to Thy praise  
And bear much fruit, in after days.*

UNKNOWN





## SEPTEMBER 14.

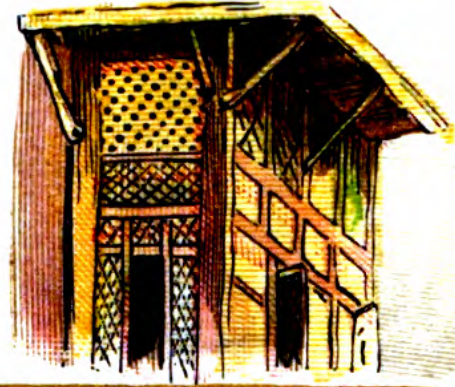
*A Lattice.  
Medium of Light.*

"He looketh forth at the windows, showing himself through the lattice."

CANTICLES ii. 9.

*Come while the morning tarries,  
Our waiting eyes to bless ;  
Look through the lowly lattice—  
Bright Sun of Righteousness.*

C. F. ALEXANDER.



## SEPTEMBER 15.

*Refined Silver—Purity.*

"He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."—MALACHI iii. 3.



*The great Refiner SITTETH  
Beside the furnace fire,  
Awaiting the fulfilment  
Of His loving heart's desire ;  
Slowly the dross is purged away,  
The lustre groweth bright,  
And the fair polished surface  
Reflecteth Heaven's own light*

H. V.

"Break forth into singing, ye mountains,  
O forest, and every tree therein.

ISAIAH xlv. 23.

*I will away  
And gather balm from a sweet forest walk !*  
\* \* \* \* \*

*The whole wild wood is one vast instrument  
Of thousand, thousand keys ; and all its  
notes*

*Come in sweet harmony, while Nature plays  
To celebrate the presence of her God.*

H. F. GOULD.

## SEPTEMBER 16.

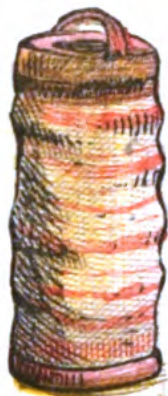
*A Forest,  
An Orchestra of Nature.*





## SEPTEMBER 17.

*A Lantern—The Word of God.*



“Thy word is a lantern unto my feet.”  
(Prayer Book Version.) PSALM cxix. 105.

*Thy Word, O God! is living yet,  
Amid earth's restless strife,  
New harmony creating still,  
And ever higher life.*

*And as that Word moves surely on,  
The light, ray after ray,  
Streams further out athwart the dark,  
And night grows into day.*

S. LONGFELLOW.

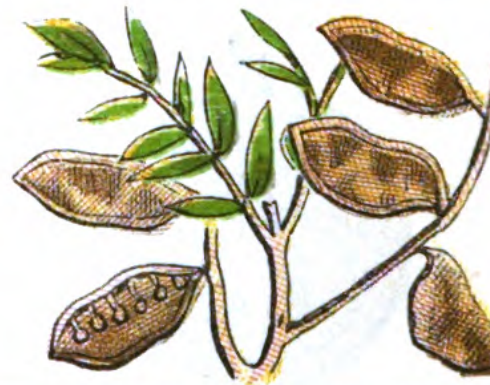
“All thy garments smell of cassia, out of  
the ivory palaces.”—PSALM xlv. 8.

*Yes, like the fragrance that wanders in  
freshness  
When the flowers that it came from are  
closed up and gone,  
So would I be to this world's weary dwellers,  
Only remembered by what I have done.*

BONAR.

## SEPTEMBER 18.

*Cassia—Sweet Odours.*



## SEPTEMBER 19.

*Morning Stars.  
Jubilant Harmony.*



“The morning stars sang together, and all  
the sons of God shouted for joy.”

JOB xxxviii. 7

*Soft stillness, and the night  
Become the touches of sweet harmony.  
Sit, Jessica: look, how the floor of Heaven  
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold!  
There's not the smallest orb, which thou  
behold'st,  
But in his motion like an angel sings,  
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubims  
Such harmony is in immortal souls:  
But, whilst this muddy vesture of decay  
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.*

SHAKESPEARE

1000

1000

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“Jonathan said to David, To-morrow, thou shalt go down and come to the place, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel; and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, and Jonathan said to David. Go in peace.”

I SAMUEL XX. 18-19-41-42.

*I had a friend that loved me:  
I was his soul: he lived not, but in me:  
We were so close within each other's breast,  
The rivets were not found that joined us  
first,  
That does not reach us yet: we were so mixed  
As meeting streams—both to ourselves  
were lost.* JOHN DRYDEN.

SEPTEMBER 20  
The Stone “Ezel” —Trust.



SEPTEMBER 21.

ST. MATTHEW'S DAY.

The Receipt of Custom—Riches.



“As Jesus passed forth, he saw a man named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.”

ST. MATT. ix. 9.

*At once he rose, and left his gold:  
His treasure and his heart  
Transferred, where he shall safe behold  
Earth and her idols part.  
While he beside his endless store  
Shall sit, and floods unceasing pour  
Of Christ's true riches o'er all time, and space  
First angel of His church, first steward  
of His grace.* KEBLE.

“Thy tacklings are loosed; they could not well strengthen their mast, they could not spread the sail.”—ISAIAH xxxiii. 23.

*And as that ship went up the waters, stately,  
Upon her topmasts tall  
I saw two sails, whereof the one was gratefully  
Dark, as a funeral pall.*

*But oh, the next's pure whiteness, who shall  
Like a shell-snowy strand, | utter?  
Or when the sunbeam falleth through the  
On a dead baby's hand: [shutter  
But both alike, across the surging sea,  
Helped to the Haven where the bark.  
would be. REV. W. ALEXANDER.*

SEPTEMBER 22.

A Sail.  
Need of Divine Help.



## SEPTEMBER 23.

*A Plumbline.*  
The Supervision of God.



“Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more.”—AMOS vii. 8.

*Thou sitt'st on high, and measur'st destinies  
And day's, and month's, and wide revolving  
years:*

*And dost according to Thy holy will;  
And none can stay Thy hand; and none  
withhold*

*Thy glory; for in judgment, Thou, as we  
As mercy, art exalted day and night:  
Past, present, future, magnify Thy name*

POLLOCK

“There arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full; and he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace be still.”

ST. MARK iv. 37-39.

*Fierce was the wild billow,  
Dark was the night;  
Oars laboured heavily,  
Foam glittered white.  
Trembled the mariners,  
Peril was high;  
Then said, the God of God—  
“Peace, it is I.”*

ANATOLIUS.

## SEPTEMBER 24.

*Rough Waves—Peril.*



## SEPTEMBER 25.

*Garners—Preservation.*



“That our garners may be full, affording a manner of store.”—PSALM cxliv. 13.

*Lord I have lain*

*Barren too long, and fain  
I would redeem the time, that I may be  
Fruitful to Thee:*

*Fruitful in knowledge, faith, obedience,  
Ere I go hence:*

*That when I come*

*At harvest to be reaped and brought  
home,*

*Thine angels may*

*My soul in Thy celestial garner lay,  
Where perfect joy and bliss*

*Eternal is.*

FRANCIS QUARLES





"The gate of the temple which is called Beautiful."—ACTS iii. 2.

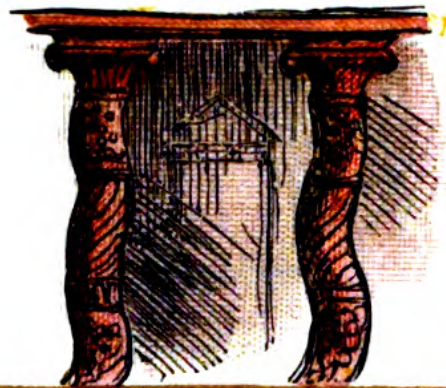
\* \* \* \* \*  
*O'er England's abbeys bends the sky,  
As on its friends, with kindred eye;  
For out of thought's interior sphere,  
These wonders rose to upper air.*

\* \* \* \* \*  
*These temples grew, as grows the grass;  
Art might obey, but not surpass;  
The passive Master lent his hand  
To the vast soul that o'er him planned.*

EMERSON.

## SEPTEMBER 26.

*The Beautiful Gate.  
Religious Art.*



## SEPTEMBER 27.

*Tabernacles.  
Transitoriness.*



"Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand."—ST. JOHN vii. 2.

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."—2 COR. v. 1.

. . . . . *They sudden reared  
Celestial tabernacles, where they slept  
Fanned with cool winds.* MILTON.

*Here in the body pent,  
Absent from Him I roam;  
Yet nightly pitch my moving tent  
A day's march nearer home.*

JAMES MONTGOMERY.

## SEPTEMBER 28.

*Boughs of Goodly Trees.  
Preparation for a Feast.*

"He shall take, on the first day, the boughs of goodly trees."—LEVITICUS xxiii. 40.

. . . . . *With large wine offerings poured, and  
sacred Feast  
Shall spend their days in joy unblamed, and  
dwell  
Long time in peace by families and tribes,  
Under paternal rule.*

MILTON.





## SEPTEMBER 29.

ST. MICHAEL'S DAY  
*The Angel Michael—Victory.*



"Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels and prevailed not."—REVELATION xii. 7-8.

*The silver light, so pale and faint,  
Showed many a prophet, and many  
saint,  
Whose image on the grass was dyed;  
Full in the midst, his cross of red,  
Triumphant Michael brandished,  
And trampled the Apostate's pride—  
The moon-beam kissed the holy pane,  
And threw on the pavement a bloody stain.*

SCOTT

## SEPTEMBER 30.

*Branches of Palm Trees.  
Gladness and Triumph.*

"Ye shall take branches of palm trees."  
LEVITICUS xxiii. 40.

*Her budding boughs and fairest palms  
Thy Zion strews around;  
And songs of praise and sweetest psalms  
From my glad heart shall sound.*

*My desert soul breaks forth in flowers,  
Rejoicing in Thy fame;  
And puts forth all her sleeping powers,  
To honour Jesus' name.*

PAUL GERHARDT.



## OCTOBER 1.

*Boughs of Thick Trees.  
Grateful shade.*



"And ye shall take boughs of thick trees."  
LEVITICUS xxiii. 40.

*Beneath some patriarchal tree  
I lay upon the ground:  
His hoary arms uplifted he,  
And all the broad leaves over me  
Clapped their little hands in glee  
With one continuous sound.  
And dreams of that which cannot die,  
Bright visions came to me,  
As lapped in thought I used to lie,  
And gaze into the summer sky,  
Where the sailing clouds went by,  
Like ships upon the sea. LONGFELLOW*





## OCTOBER 2.

*Willows of the Brook.  
Rejoicing.*

“And ye shall take willows of the brook ;  
and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God  
seven days.”—LEVITICUS xxiii. 40.

\* \* \* \* \*  
*Messengers with wands of willow,  
As a sign of invitation,  
As a token of the feasting!*

LONGFELLOW.



## OCTOBER 3.

*Olive Branches—Peace.*



“Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive  
branches.”—NEHEMIAH viii. 15.

*Go forth to the mount—bring the olive-branch  
home,  
And rejoice, for the day of her freedom is  
come!  
From that time when the moon upon Ajalon's  
vale,  
Looking, motionless down, saw the kings of  
the earth,  
In the presence of God's mighty champion  
grow pale,  
Oh never, had Judah an hour of such mirth!*

MOORE.

“Go and fetch pine branches.”  
NEHEMIAH viii. 15.

*Before me rose an avenue  
Of tall and sombre pines ;  
Abroad their fan-like branches grew,  
And where the sunshine darted through,  
Spread a vapour soft and blue  
In long and sloping lines,  
And falling on my weary brain,  
Like a fast-falling shower,  
The dreams of youth come back again ;  
Low lisping of the summer rain  
Dropping on the ripened grain,  
As once upon the flower.* LONGFELLOW.

## OCTOBER 4.

*Pine Branches—Grandeur.*



## OCTOBER 5.

*Myrtle Branches—Rejoicing.*



“Fetch myrtle branches to make booths, as is written.”—**NEHEMIAH** viii. 15.

*Bring myrtle and palm, bring the bough of each tree,*

*That's worthy to wave o'er the tents of Free:*

*From that day, when the footsteps of Israel* [sho  
*With a light not their own through*

*Jordan's deep tide* [on  
*Whose waters shrunk back as the Ark glid*

*Oh, never had Judah an hour of such pride*  
*Go forth to the mount—bring the olive-branch*

*home,*  
*And rejoice, for the day of our Freedom*  
*come!* MOORE

“He went into a ship—and said, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake.”

ST. LUKE viii. 22.

*Fair are the lakes in the land I love,  
Where pine and heather grow:  
But thou hast loveliness far above  
What nature can bestow.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*It is not that the wild gazelle  
Comes down to drink thy tide—  
But He that was pierced to save from Hell,  
Oft wandered by thy side.*

MC CHEYNE.

## OCTOBER 6.

*A Lake—Natural Beauty*



## OCTOBER 7.

*A Vial of Oil—Anointing.*



“Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured upon his head.”—**I SAMUEL** x. 1.

*God did anoint thee with His odorous oil  
To wrestle, not to reign: and He assign  
All thy tears over, like pure crystallines  
For younger fellow-workers of the soil  
To wear for amulets. So others shall  
Take patience, labour, to their heart*

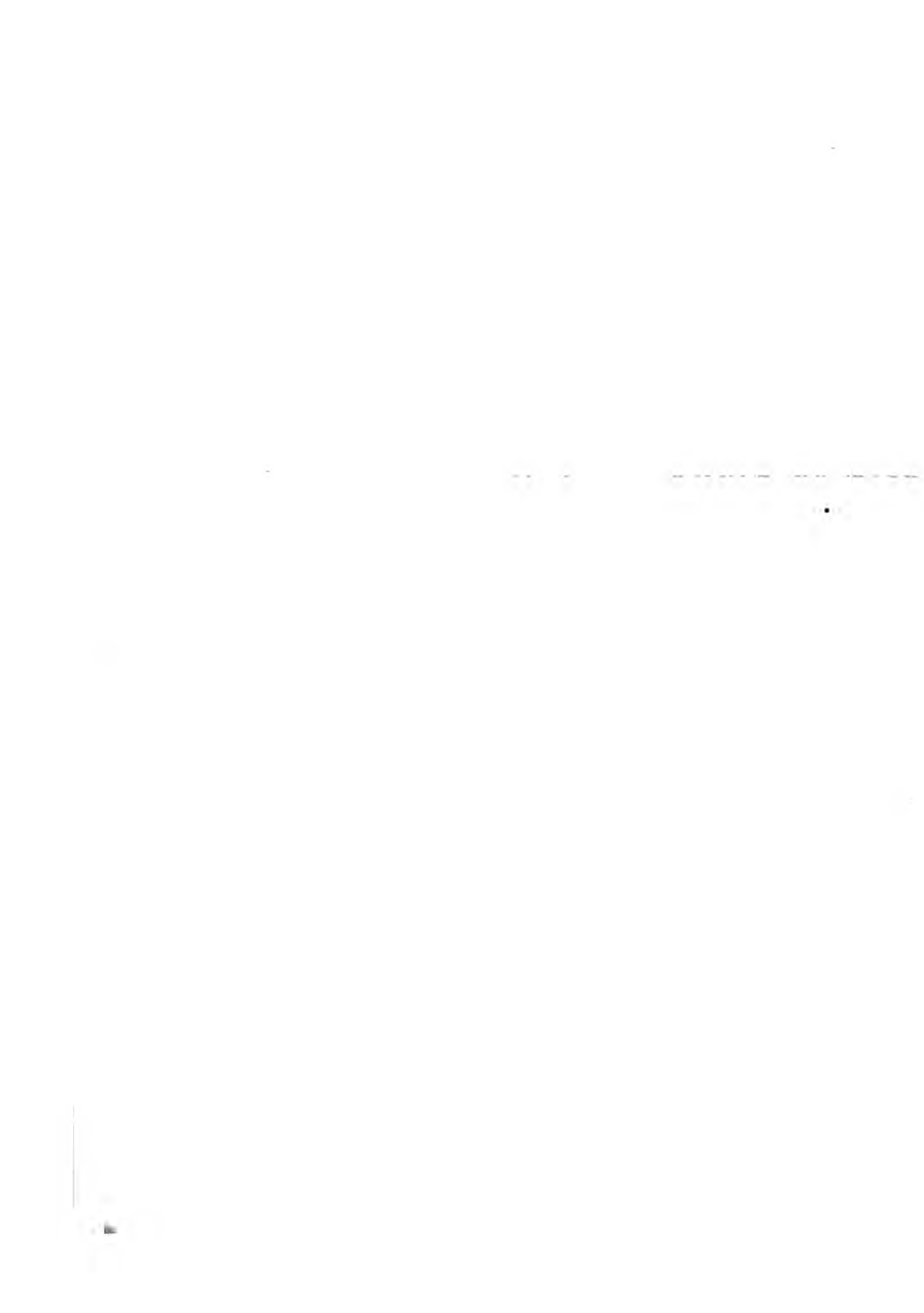
*hand,* [brave ch  
*From thy hand, and thy heart, and  
And God's grace fructify through thee to  
The least flower, with a brimming cup,*

*stand*

*And share its dew-drop with another ne*

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING





“With trumpets and sound of cornet  
make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.”  
PSALM xcvi. 6.

*Ye plummy warblers of the Spring,  
Harmonious anthems raise.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Let man, by nobler passions swayed,  
The feeling heart, the judging head,  
And heavenly praise employ:  
Spread His tremendous name around,  
Till Heaven's broad arch rings back the  
sound,  
The general burst of joy.*

OGILVIE.

**OCTOBER 8.**  
*The Cornet—Joy*



**OCTOBER 9.**

*A Faded Flower.  
The fragrance remains.*



“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth;  
but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”  
ISAIAH xl. 8.

*Sweet though the flowers of earth, yet are  
they fading:  
Blight and disease apace all things pervading  
Soul! for the world above  
Keep thou thine early love:  
Homeward thou wandering dove:  
Welcome to all!*

SOPHIA CAULFIELD.

“The barrel of meal wasted not, according  
to the word of the Lord.”—1 KINGS xvii. 16.

*By the poor widow's oil and meal  
Elijah was sustained:  
Though small the stock, it lasted well,  
For God the store maintained.  
It seemed as if from day to day  
They were to eat, and die;  
But still, though in a secret way,  
He sent a fresh supply.*

JOHN NEWTON.

**OCTOBER 10.**

*A Barrel of Meal—Sustenance.*





## OCTOBER 11.

*The Stork—Reliability.*



"Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord."—JEREMIAH viii. 7.

— *There the eagle and the stork  
On cliffs and cedar tops their eyries build  
Part loosely wing the region, part more w  
In common, ranged in figure wedge th  
way,  
Intelligent of season.*

MILTON.

## OCTOBER 12.

*Chrysoprasus.  
Healing to the Eyes.  
(Hebrew meaning.)*

"The foundations were garnished with precious stones; the tenth, a chrysoprasus."  
REVELATION xxi. 19-20.

*When the sightless man  
Heard the Nazerene was passing by,  
He cried and said, "Jesus, thou son of David,  
Have mercy upon me!" and when rebuked,  
He cried the more, "Have mercy upon me!"  
"Thy faith hath made thee whole," so Jesus  
spake,  
And straight the blind beheld the face of  
God.*

JAMES GRAHAM.



## OCTOBER 13.

*Spikenard—Preciousness.*



"There came a woman having an alabastrine box of ointment of spikenard very precious."  
ST. MARK xiv.

*She brought her box of alabaster,  
The precious spikenard filled the room  
With honour worthy of the Master,  
A costly, rare, and rich perfume.*

FOR





“As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks.”—EZEKIEL iii. 9.

OCTOBER 14.

Adamant—Firmness.

*The Seraph Abdiel, faithful found,  
Among the faithless, faithful only he:  
Among innumerable false, unmoved,  
Unshaken, unseduced, unterrified,  
His loyalty he kept, his love, his zeal.  
Nor number, nor example with him  
wrought  
To swerve from truth, or change his constant  
mind.*

MILTON.



OCTOBER 15.

Manna—Bread from Heaven.



“Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.”—ST. JOHN vi. 31-32.

*True Bread of life, in pitying mercy given,  
Long famished souls to strengthen and to  
feed; [Heaven,  
Christ Jesus, Son of God, true Bread of  
Thy Flesh is meat, Thy Blood is drink  
indeed. [fail,  
I cannot famish, though this earth should  
Though life through all its fields should  
pine and die; [each vale,  
Though the sweet verdure should forsake  
And every stream of every land run dry.  
BONAR.*

“Oh that my words were now written!  
that they were graven with an iron pen and lead  
in the rock for ever!—JOB xix. 23-24.

OCTOBER 16.

A Pen of Iron—A Recorder.

*The deeds of reasonable men,  
As if engraven with pen of iron grain,  
And laid in flinty rock, there stand  
unchanged,  
Written on the various pages of the past:  
If GOOD, in rosy characters of love;  
If BAD, in letters of vindictive fire;  
God may forgive, but cannot blot them out.*

POLLOK.



## OCTOBER 17.

*Teil Tree (or Lime.)  
Unfading Hope.*



“As a teil tree, and as an oak, wh substance is in them, when they cast th leaves.”—ISAIAH vi. 13.

*Unfading Hope! when life's last embers burn  
When soul to soul, and dust to dust, retur  
Heaven to thy charge resigns the awful hon  
Oh, then thy kingdom comes, immor  
power!*

*What though each spark of earth-bo  
rapture fly,  
The quivering lip, pale cheek, and closing ey  
Bright to thy soul then Seraph hands conv  
The morning dream of Life's eternal day.*

CAMPBELL

“Luke, the beloved physician.”—COL. iv. 14

“Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there?”—JEREMIAH viii. 22.

*O happy Saint! whose sacred page,  
So rich in words of truth and love,  
Pours on the Church from age to age  
This healing unction from above;  
The witness of the Saviour's life,  
The great Apostle's chosen friend  
Through weary years of toil and strife,  
And still found faithful to the end.*

MACLAGAN.

*For here the soul's physician first was seen,  
Taught by his Lord to soothe eternal pain.*

DANTE.

## OCTOBER 18.

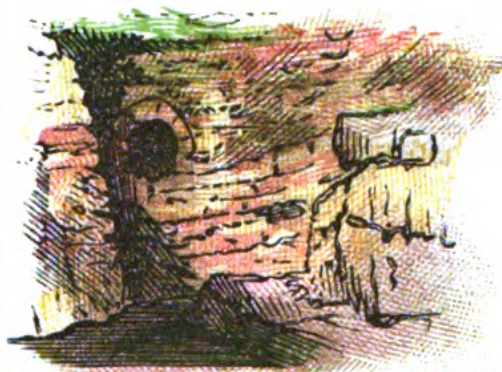
ST. LUKE'S DAY.

*Balm of Gilead—Healing*



## OCTOBER 19.

*The Pool of Siloam.  
Sent by God.*



“He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam (which is by interpretation, Sent).”—ST. JOHN iv. 6

*Siloa's brook that flowed fast by the ora  
of God.*

MILTON

*Siloam is the fountain's name:*

*It means one sent from God:*

*And thus the Holy Saviour's fame  
It gently spreads abroad.*

*O grant that I, like this sweet well,  
May Jesus' image bear,  
And spend my life, my all, to tell  
How full His mercies are.*

MC CHEYNE.





## OCTOBER 20.

*A Diadem.*  
The Glory of the Church

"Thou shalt be a royal diadem in the hand  
of thy God."—ISAIAH lxii. 3.

*Fair shines the moon, Jerusalem,  
Upon the hill that wore  
Thy glory once, their diadem  
E'er Judah's reign was o'er.  
The stars on hallowed Olivet,  
And over Zion burn,  
But when shall rise thy splendours, set?  
Thy majesty return?*

BAYARD TAYLOR.



## OCTOBER 21.

*Exotics—Rarity.*



"Thou shalt plant pleasant plants, and  
shall set it with strange slips (Exotics)."

ISAIAH xvii. 10.

*O flowers  
That never will in other climate grow,  
My early visitation, and my last  
At even, which I bred up with tender hand  
From the first opening bud, and gave ye  
names;  
Who now shall rear ye to the sun, or rank  
Your tribes, and water from the ambrosial  
fount?*

MILTON.

"I have made thee a defenced city, and brazen  
walls against the whole land."

JEREMIAH i. 18.

*As birds their infant brood protect,  
And spread their wings to shelter them;  
Thus, saith the Lord, to His elect,  
So will I guard Jerusalem.*

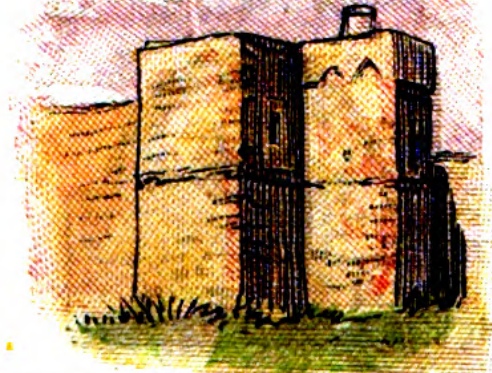
\* \* \* \* \*

*Let Earth repent and Hell despair;  
This city hath a sure defence;  
Her name is called, "The Lord is there,"  
And who has power to drive Him hence?*

COWPER.

## OCTOBER 22.

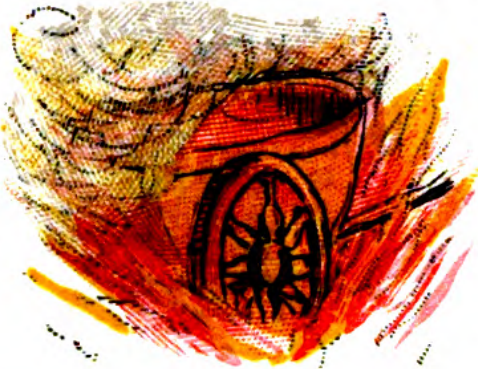
*Brazen Walls—Defence.*





## OCTOBER 23.

*A Chariot of Fire—Triumph.*



“As they still went on and talked, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”—2 KINGS ii. 11.

*Then forward still they went, discoursing  
Of Heavenly bliss and immortality, [high  
When from a cloud breaks (like the purple  
dawn)*

*By fiery steeds a fiery chariot drawn:  
A glittering convoy swift as that descends,  
And in an instant parts the embracing  
friends.*

*To the bright car conducts the man of God,  
And mounts again the steep ethereal road.*

ROWE.

## OCTOBER 24.

*Sycamine Tree—Trial of Faith*

“The Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.”—ST. LUKE xvii. 6.

*Thou must believe, and thou must venture;  
In fearless faith thy safety dwells;  
By miracles alone men enter  
The glorious land of miracles.*

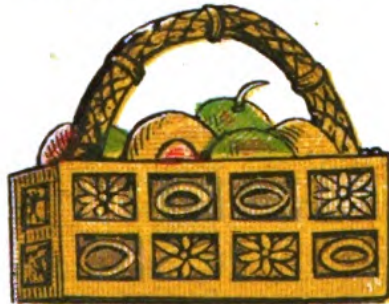
SCHILLER



## OCTOBER 25.

*Apples of Gold in Pictures  
(or Baskets) of Silver.*

*Words fitly spoken.*



“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”—PROVERBS xxv. 11.

*Whene'er a noble deed is wrought,  
Whene'er is spoken a noble thought,  
Our hearts, in glad surprise,  
To higher levels rise.*

\* \* \* \* \*  
*Honour to those whose words or deeds  
Thus help us in our daily needs,  
And by their overflow  
Raise us from what is low!*

LONGFELLOW





"I am like a green fir tree."—HOSEA xiv. 8.

*Few are the clear strong spirits, who can  
bear*

*To look on Truth in her unclouded blaze;  
Few are the high, heroic souls, who dare  
Above the low pursuit of gain, to raise  
Their firm unbending purpose; few can gaze  
At virtue, on her pure and awful throne;  
Ah! few can love the ethereal coin she pays;  
But they must love it, for the souls alone  
Who master self, can claim her birthright  
as their own*

GATES PERCIVAL.

OCTOBER 26.

*A Fir Tree—Uprightness.*



OCTOBER 27.

*A Haven—Refuge.*



"He maketh the storm a calm, so that the  
waves thereof are still. Then are they glad  
because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto  
their desired Haven."—PSALM cvii. 29-30.

*On the wide world's ocean rudely driven,  
Let me gaze upon Thine own bright Heaven,  
The sweet Haven where I long to be;  
Give me now the comfort of possessing,  
What I value as the highest blessing,  
Perfect peace, through steadfast faith in  
Thee!*

SPITTA.

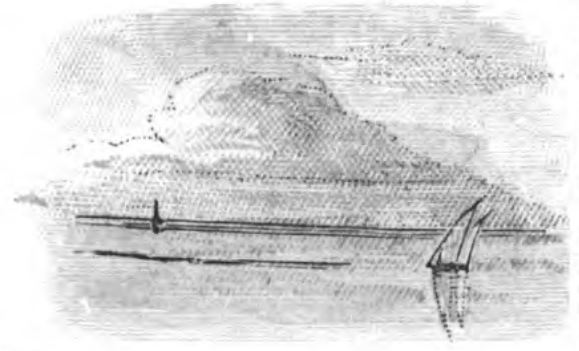
"Before the throne there was a sea of glass  
like unto crystal."—REVELATION iv. 6.

*Call the erring by Thy pity;  
Warn the tempted by Thy fear:  
Keep us true to Thine allegiance,  
Counting life itself less dear,  
Standing firmer, holding faster,  
As we see the end draw near.  
Till, with holy Jude and Simon  
And the thousand faithful more,  
We, the good confession witnessed  
And the lifelong conflict o'er,  
On the sea of fire and crystal  
Stand, and wonder, and adore.*

ELLERTON.

OCTOBER 28.

SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE.  
*A Sea of Glass—Purity.*



## OCTOBER 29.

*Lentiles—Nourishment.*



“Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles.”—GENESIS XXV. 34.

*Please to taste  
These bounties which our Nourisher, from  
whom  
All perfect good unmeasured out descends,  
To us for food and for delight hath caused  
The earth to yield: unsavoury food, perhaps  
To spiritual natures: only this I know,  
That one celestial Father gives to all.*

MILTON

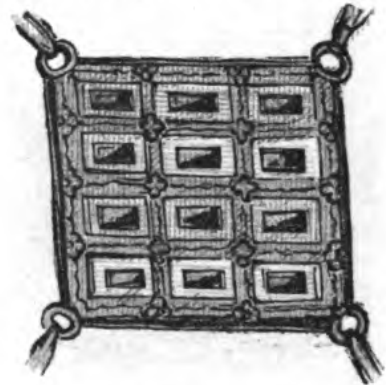
## OCTOBER 30.

*A Breastplate—Righteousness*

“Stand, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.”—EPHESIANS VI. 14.

*What stronger breastplate than a heart  
untainted?  
Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel  
just;  
And he, but naked, though locked up in steel,  
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted.*

SHAKESPEARE.



## OCTOBER 31.

*Vessels of Copper.  
Prepared for use.*



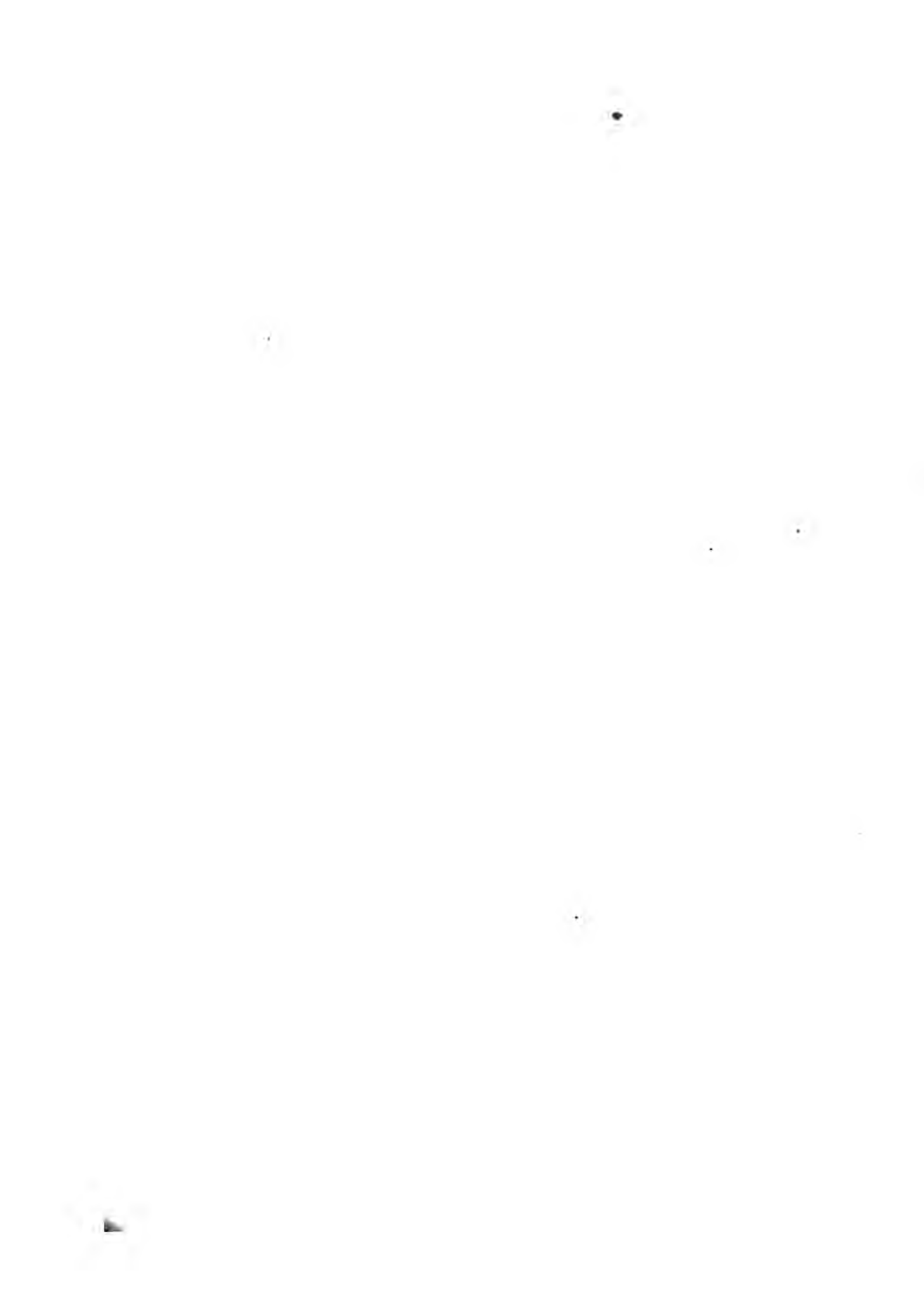
“Two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.”—EZRA viii. 27.

“A vessel unto honour, sanctified, and made for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.”—2 TIMOTHY ii. 21

*I watched the potter at his work,  
Moulding a vessel, strong and fair;  
“Twill soon be fit for use,” said he,  
While finishing the bowl with care.  
I thought upon the Apostle's words,  
And said, “O Lord, I am but clay;  
Mould me, and make me fit for Thee;  
Then use me, at a future day.”*

ANNE HAMILTON





"They shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels."  
MALACHI iii. 17.

*When He cometh, when He cometh,  
To make up His jewels,  
All His jewels, precious jewels,  
His loved, and His own;  
Like the stars of the morning,  
His bright crown adorning,  
They shall shine in their beauty,  
Bright gems for His crown.*

CUSHING.

**NOVEMBER 1.**  
ALL SAINTS' DAY  
*Jewels—The Saints.*



**NOVEMBER 2.**  
*A Golden Censer of Incense.  
The Prayers of All Saints.*



"Another angel came and stood at the altar, habing a golden censer; and there was giben unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne."

REVELATION viii. 3.

*O mystery of mysteries!  
I kneel and gaze with wondering eyes;  
I see "another Angel" stand  
With golden censer in his hand:  
His piercèd hand the censer swings,  
And streaming up on shadowy wings,  
The prayers of all the Saints arise  
With his "much incense" to the skies.*

WINTERBOTHAM.

"The foundations were garnished with precious stones; the eleventh, a jacinth."  
REVELATION xxi. 19-20.

*And as the waxing moon can take  
The tidal waters in her wake,  
Aunt lead them round and round, to break  
Obedient to her drawings dim;  
So may the movements of His mind,  
The first Great Father of mankind,  
Affect with answering movements, blind,  
And draw the souls that breathe by Him.*

JEAN INGELOW.

**NOVEMBER 3.**  
*Jacinth—Attraction.*  
(Hebrew meaning.)





## NOVEMBER 4.

*The Peacock—Pomp.*



“The navy of Tharshish, bringing ivory and apes, and peacocks.”—1 KINGS x. 22.

*Vain pomp and glory of the world, I hate ye*  
SHAKESPEARE.

*How rich the peacock! what bright glories*  
*run*

*From plume to plume, and vary in the sun!*  
*He proudly spreads them to the golden ray,*  
*Gives all his colours, and adorns the day;*  
*With conscious state the spacious round*  
*displays,*

*And slowly moves amid the waving blaze.*  
YOUNG.

“The Lord said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone; and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables.”

EXODUS xxxiv. 1.

*Thou shalt have no more Gods but me,*  
*Before no idol bow thy knee;*  
*Take not the name of God in vain,*  
*Nor dare the Sabbath day profane:*  
*Give both thy parents honour due,*  
*Take heed that thou no murder do;*  
*Abstain from words and deeds unclean,*  
*Nor steal, though thou art poor and mean:*  
*Nor make a wilful lie, nor love it;*  
*What is thy neighbour's dare not covet.*

DOCTOR WATTS.

## NOVEMBER 5.

*Two Tables of Stone.*  
*The Divine Law.*



“Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and, if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.”

NUMBERS xxi. 9

*When, stung by serpents, drawing nigh to*  
*death,* [grieve

*God's thankless people for their trespass*  
*Then, their great Leader, testing thus their*  
*faith,*

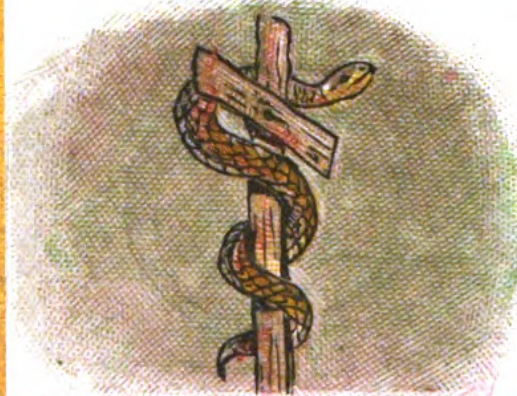
*Bids them behold his brazen sign, and live*  
*So, when we feel the deadly sting of sin,*

*Direct, O Lord! our gaze, ere yet we die*  
*To Thee, whose death, shall our deliverance*  
*win,*

*While faith beholds Thee, lifted thus, on*  
*high.*  
THE COMPILERS.

## NOVEMBER 6.

*A Brazen Serpent.*  
*Deliberance.*







"We shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the Lord."—ISAIAH xxx. 29.

*For Thee the nard and spices  
And the fine linen's fold,  
But not for Thee suffices  
The ointment and the gold.  
Things nobler still, and fairer,  
O Saviour! shall be thine;  
Man's heart hath offerings rarer,  
Sweet sounds, and songs divine.*

C. F. ALEXANDER.

## NOVEMBER 7.

*The Pipe—Holy Gladness.*



## NOVEMBER 8.

*A Hammer.  
The Word of God.*



"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"—JEREMIAH xxiii. 29.

*He comes and lays my heart all heated,  
On the bare anvil, minded so,  
Into His own fair shape to beat it,  
With His great hammer, blow on blow:  
And yet I whisper, "As God will!"  
And in His mighty hand hold still.*

STURM.

"His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven."  
PSALM lxxxix. 29.

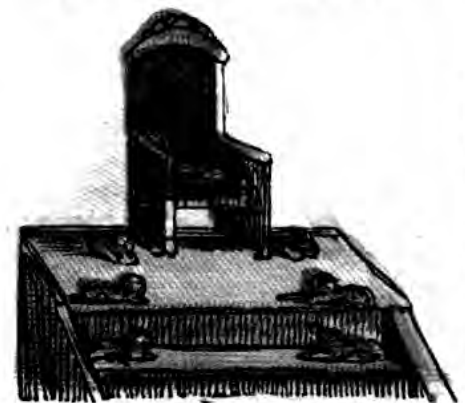
*If our victorious Edward, as they say,  
Gave Wales a prince on that propitious day,  
Why may not years, revolving with his fate,  
Produce his like, but with a longer date?*

*We need no Edward's fortune to adorn  
That happy moment when our prince was  
born;  
Our prince adorns this day, and ages hence  
Shall wish his birthday for some future  
prince.*

DRYDEN.

## NOVEMBER 9.

*A Throne—Duration.*



## NOVEMBER 10.

*A Signet—Power to Impress.*



“I will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the Lord of hosts.”

HAGGAI ii. 23

*Remember what a mighty power  
In Jesus' name resides,  
And know that it to him belongs,  
Who in his Lord abides.  
And that though weak the signet seems,  
Yet held in God's right hand,  
It may on souls an impress make,  
Which shall for ever stand.*

H. V.

“She maketh herself coverings of tapestry.”

PROVERBS xxxi. 22.

*Here, when Art was still religion, with a  
simple reverend heart,  
Lived and laboured Albrecht Dürer, the  
evangelist of art;  
Vanished is the ancient splendour, and before  
my dreamy eye,  
Wave these mingling shapes and figures, like  
a faded tapestry.*

LONGFELLOW.

## NOVEMBER 11.

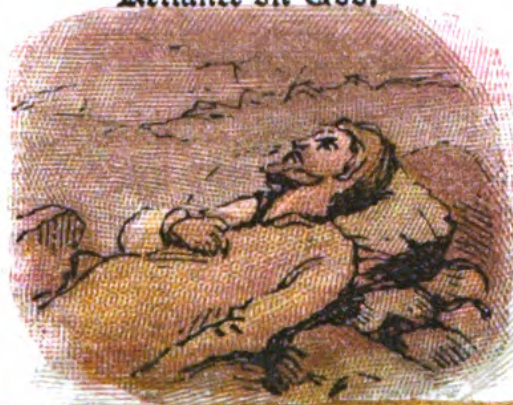
*Tapestry.*

*Ornamental Industry.*



## NOVEMBER 12.

*A Pillow of Stones.  
Reliance on God.*



“He took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.”—GENESIS xxviii. 11.

*He slept beneath the desert skies,  
His pillow was the desert stone:  
Yet heavenly visions blessed his eyes,  
And cheered his spirit, sad and lone.  
He saw the stair of light let down,  
Whose shining steps the angels trod,  
And called the desert where it shone,  
The gate of Heaven—the House of God.  
Thy sleepless eye, O God, still keeps  
Its watch o'er every covenant heir!  
And angels' down that ladder's steps  
From Thee to me a blessing bear.*

UNKNOWN.





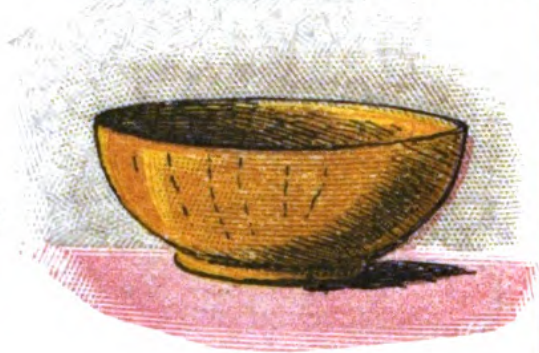
Or the golden bowl be broken."  
ECCLESIASTES xii. 6.

Hearken, hearken!  
God speaketh in thy soul,  
Saying, O thou that movest  
With feeble steps across this earth of Mine,  
To break, beside the fount, thy golden bowl,  
And spill its purple wine:  
Look up to Heaven, and see how like a scroll  
My right hand hath thine immortality  
In an eternal grasping.

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

NOVEMBER 13.

The Golden Bowl—Human Life.



NOVEMBER 14.

A Coat of Many Colours.  
Preference.



"Israel loved Joseph more than all his children; and he made him a coat of many colours."—GENESIS xxxvii. 3

Heavenly Father, I would wear  
Angel garments, white and fair;  
Angel vesture, undefiled,  
Wilt Thou give unto thy child.  
Not a robe of many hues,  
Such as earthly father's choose.  
Discord weaves the gaudy rest;  
Not in such let me be drest.  
Take the raiment soiled away  
That I wear with shame to day;  
Give my angel-robcs to me,  
White, with Heaven's own purity.

LUCY LAICOM.

"He took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth."—JUDGES viii. 16.

The black stream flows along,  
Whose waters we despise;  
Show us reflected there  
Some fragment of the skies.  
'Neath tangled thorns and briers  
(The task is fit for thee)  
Seek for the hidden flowers,  
We are too blind to see;  
Then will Thy great gift,  
A crown and blessing call:  
Angels look thus on men,  
And God sees good in all. UNKNOWN.

NOVEMBER 15.

Briers—Useful Teaching.





## NOVEMBER 16.

*Burnished Brass—Lustre.*



“They sparkled like the colour of burnished brass.”—EZEKIEL i. 7.

*Thousands are round us, toiling as we,  
Living and loving—whose lot is to be  
Past and forgotten, like waves on the sea.  
Be we content, then, to pass into shade,  
Visage and voice in oblivion laid,  
And live in the light that our actions have  
made.*

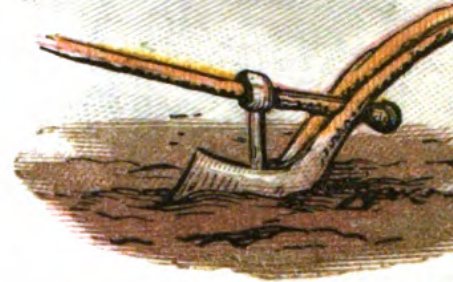
DEAN ALFORD.

“Jesus said, No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”—ST. LUKE ix. 62.

*Rouse to some work of high and holy love,  
And thou an angel's happiness shalt know.  
Shalt bless the earth while in the world above;  
The good begun by thee shall onward flow  
In many a branching stream, and wider  
grow: [hours,  
The seed, that, in these few and fleeting  
Thy hands unsparing, and unwearied, sow;  
Shall deck thy grave with amaranthine  
flowers,  
And yield thee fruits divine, in heaven's  
immortal bowers. CHARLES WILCOX.*

## NOVEMBER 17.

*The Plough—Perseverance*



## NOVEMBER 18.

*A Shining Candle.  
The Light of Goodness.*



“Her candle goeth not out by night.”  
PROVERBS xxxi

*How far that little candle throws  
beams!  
So shines a good deed, in a naughty world.*

SHAKESPEARE





“Bid them make fringes in the borders of their garments, and put upon the fringe a ribband of blue: that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them.”—NUMBERS xv. 38-39.

*Without haste! without rest!  
Bind the motto to thy breast;  
Bear it with thee as a spell:  
Storm or sunshine guard it well!  
Heed not flowers that round thee bloom,  
Bear it onward to the tomb.*

GOËTHE.

## NOVEMBER 19.

*Borders of a Garment.  
A Reminder of Duty.*



## NOVEMBER 20.

*A Bundle of Sticks—Unity.*



“Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks.”

ACTS xxviii. 3.

*Are we not creatures of one hand Divine,  
Formed in one mould, to one redemption born;  
Kindred alike, where'er our skies may shine,  
Where'er our sight first drank the vital  
morn?*

*Brothers—one bond around our souls should  
twine:*

*And woe to him by whom that bond is torn,  
Who mounts, by trampling broken hearts to  
earth,*

*Who bow down spirits of immortal birth!*

MANZONI.

“Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.”—JEREMIAH iv. 3.

*May then the hand,  
Obedient to Thy blest command,  
Which sows the seed  
Of our eternal life indeed,  
Not sow in desolate land.  
But may it know  
The hand which scatters here below  
The seed divine;  
That hand whose strength and power  
is Thine,  
That from its labour, fl awers may grow.*

UNKNOWN.

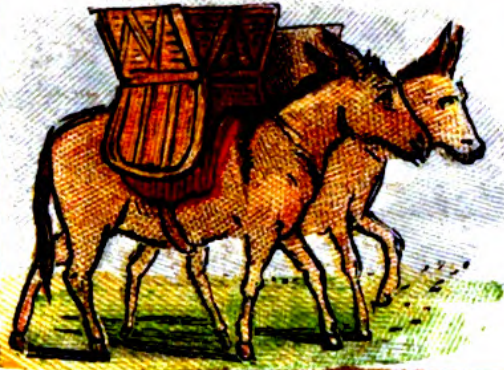
## NOVEMBER 21.

*Fallow Ground.  
Unoccupied Time.*



## NOVEMBER 22.

*Asses Laden with Presents.  
Gratitude.*



“Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and laid them on asses. And when Abigail saw David, she said, Now thy blessing which thine handmaid hath brought, it be given unto the young men that follow thy lord.”—I SAMUEL XXV. 18-23-27.

*I've heard of hearts unkind, kind deeds  
With coldness still returning ;  
Alas ! the gratitude of men  
Hath often left me mourning.*

WORDSWORTH

## NOVEMBER 23.

*A Smoking Furnace.  
Probation.*

“When the sun went down, and it was dark, behold, a smoking furnace.”—GENESIS XV. 17.

*Made of the dust,  
And thus allied to all material worlds,  
Born of the Spirit, and thus allied to God.  
He, during his probation's term shall walk  
His Mother Earth, unfledged to range the sky,  
But if found faithful, shall at length ascend  
The highest heavens and share My home and  
yours.*

E. H. BICKERSTETH.



## NOVEMBER 24.

*Frankincense.  
A Costly Offering.*



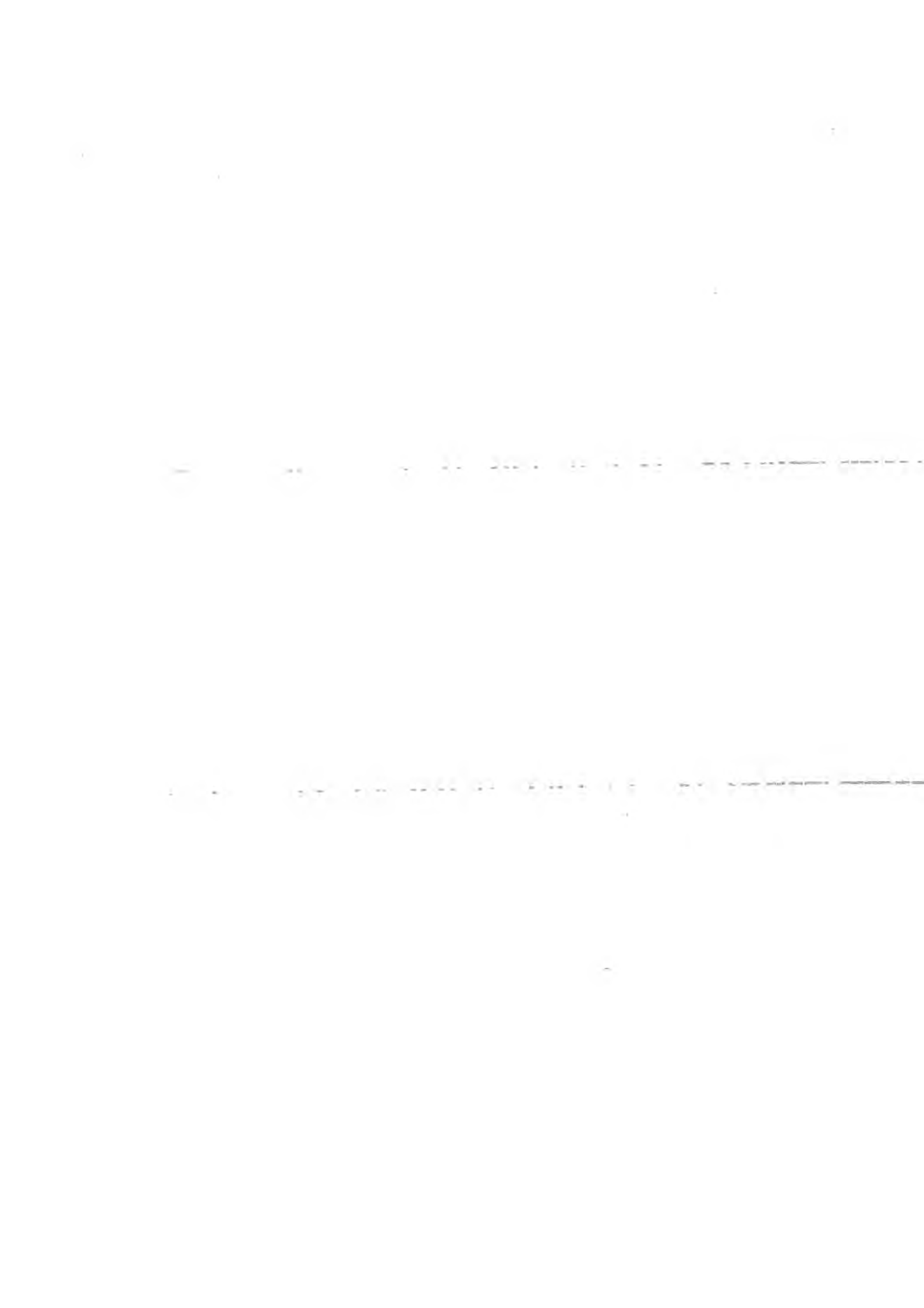
“When they were come into the house, they saw the young child ; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”

ST. MATT. ii. 11

*Who from the wilderness is this who come  
Like pillars of the smoke-cloud driving  
Whom frankincense with fragrancy  
fumeth  
With myrrh and odours from  
merchant won ?*

ARTHUR MALBY

\_\_\_\_\_



"Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be."

DEUTERONOMY xxxiii. 25

*Many a painful step must be ascended,  
Ere my weary pilgrimage is ended,  
And in Heaven, I see Thee, face to face:  
O! then reach Thy hand dear Lord, to  
raise me;  
For, alas! the giddy height dismays me;  
Guide me, uphold me, with thine arm of  
grace.*

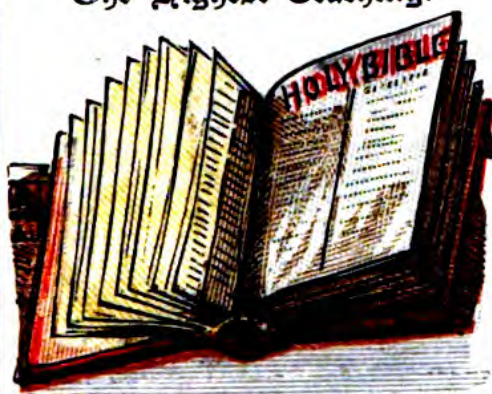
SPITTA.

**NOVEMBER 25.**  
*Shoes of Iron and Brass  
Imparted Strength.*



**NOVEMBER 26.**

*The Holy Scriptures.  
The Highest Teaching.*



"From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation."—2 TIMOTHY iii. 15.

*My fairest child, I have no song to give you;  
No lark could pipe to skies so dull and  
grey:*

*Yet, 'ere we part, one lesson I can leave you,  
For every day.*

*Be good, sweet maid, and let who will be  
clever;* [long:

*Do noble things, not dream them, all day  
And so make life, death, and that vast for  
ever*

*One grand sweet song.*

CHARLES KINGSLEY.

"They took up twelve baskets full of the fragments."—ST. MARK vi. 43.

*Ah, wasteful woman! she who may  
On her sweet self set her own price,  
Knowing he cannot choose, but pay.  
How has she cheapened Paradise!  
How given for nought her priceless gift!  
How spoiled the bread and spilled the wine,  
Which, spent with due, respective thrift,  
Had made brutes men, and men divine.*

COVENTRY PATMORE.

**NOVEMBER 27.**  
*A Basket of Fragments.  
Thrift.*





## NOVEMBER 28.

*Ark of the Covenant.  
Sacredness.*



“The ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, which was a figure for the then present.”—HEBREWS ix. 4-9.

*Such delight hath God in men  
Obedient to His will, that He vouchsafeth  
Among them to set up His tabernacle,  
The Holy One with mortal men to dwell.  
By His prescript a sanctuary is framed  
Of cedar overlaid with gold, therein  
An ark, and in the ark His testimony,  
The records of His covenant, over these  
A mercy seat of gold between the wings  
Of two bright cherubims.*

MILT

## NOVEMBER 29.

*A Galley.  
Pleasure on the Wave.*

“A place of broad rivers and streams, wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ships pass thereby.”—ISAIAH xxxiii. 21.

*In each sail that skims the horizon,  
In each landward-blowing breeze,  
I behold that stately galley,  
Hear those mournful melodies.  
Till my soul is filled with longing  
For the secret of the sea,  
And the heart of the great ocean  
Sends a thrilling pulse through me.*

LONGFELLOW.



## NOVEMBER 30.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY.

*A Threefold Cord—Fraternity.*



“A threefold cord is not quickly broken.”  
ECCLESIASTES iv.

*Oh! great must Andrew's bliss have been  
Too deep for words to tell,  
When his own hand to Jesus led  
The brother loved so well.*

*Yes, \*potent\* was the \*heaven-born\* spell,  
Strong were the cords of love;  
No marvel that his brother's heart  
Was drawn to God above.  
And closer the fraternal band  
Was woven round each heart,  
Which time nor trial could untie,  
Nor death itself could part.*

H.





"He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor."—ST. MATT. iii. 11-12.

*God's acre! Into its furrows shall we all  
be cast,  
In the sure faith that we shall rise again  
At the great harvest, when the archangel's  
blast  
Shall winnow like a fan the chaff and grain.  
Then shall the good stand in immortal bloom,  
In the fair gardens of that second birth!  
And each bright blossom mingle its perfume  
With that of flowers which never bloomed on  
earth.*

LONGFELLOW.

## DECEMBER 1.

*A Fan—Winnowing.*



## DECEMBER 2.

*A Chaplet of Ivy.  
A Type of Incorruption.*



"Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown (ivy); but we an incorruptible."—I CORINTHIANS ix. 25.

*With these that never fade, the spirits elect  
Bind their resplendent locks inwreathed with  
beams,  
Now in loose garlands, thick thrown off, the  
bright  
Pavement, that like a sea of Jasper shone,  
Inpurpled with celestial roses, smiled.*

MILTON.

"No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls; for the price of wisdom is above rubies."—JOB xxviii. 18.

*How much superior beauty awes,  
The coldest bosoms find;  
But with resistless force it draws,  
To worth and sweetness joined:  
The casket, where to outward show,  
The workman's art is seen,  
Is doubly valued, when we know  
It holds a gem within.*

BICKERSTAFF.

## DECEMBER 3.

*Coral and Pearls—Worthy.*



## DECEMBER 4.

*Coals of Juniper.  
Persecution.*



“Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.”—PSALM CXX. 4.

*When Persecution's torrent blaze  
Wraps the unshrinking Martyr's head  
When fade all earthly flowers and bays,  
When summer friends are gone and fle  
Is he alone in that dark hour,  
Who owns the Lord of love and power?*

KEBI

“If it please the king, let letters be given me; and a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber.”  
NEHEMIAH ii. 7-8.

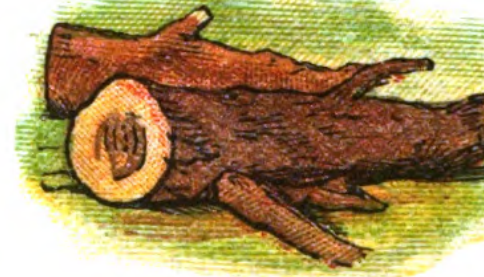
*Covering many a rood of ground,  
Lay the timber piled around;  
Timber of chestnut, and elm, and oak,  
And, scattered here and there, with these,  
The knarred and crooked cedar knees.*

*Choose the timbers with greatest care,  
Of all that is unsound beware:  
For only what is sound and strong  
To this vessel shall belong.*

LONGFELLOW.

## DECEMBER 5.

*Timber—Usefulness.*



## DECEMBER 6.

*The Burning Bush.  
The Presence of God.*



“There appeared to him an angel of Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.” ACTS vii.  
*An ancient heathen fable says, that jupi  
was prayed [arraye  
To show himself in all the light of maje  
To certify a damsel fair, that he fr  
Heaven came: [the flan  
Reluctantly he did so—and she perished  
How different the truths we learn of Go  
own presence here,  
Once in a worthless: bramble bush it plea  
Him to appear;  
And yet 'twas not consumed. My God, en  
my worthless heart;  
And when Thou once hast rested there,  
never more depart. ANNE HAMILTON*





## DECEMBER 7.

*The Rent Veil of the Temple.*  
Revelation.

“Behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain.”—ST. MATT. xxvii. 51.

*Oh! then shall the veil be removed,  
And around me Thy brightness be poured;  
I shall meet Him, whom absent I loved;  
I shall see, whom unseen, I adored.*

COWPER.



## DECEMBER 8.

*A Burning Lamp.*  
Enlightenment.



“When the sun went down, behold, a burning lamp.”—GENESIS xv. 17.

*O Saviour! whose mercy, severe in its  
kindness,  
Has chastened my wanderings and guided my  
way,  
Adored be the power which illumined my  
blindness,  
And weaned me from phantoms that smiled  
to betray.*

GRANT.

## DECEMBER 9.

*The Sparrow—Cheerfulness.*

“Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, even thy altar, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.”—PSALM lxxxiv. 3.

*Sing on sweet bird, I listen to thy strain;  
See aged winter, 'mid his surly reign,  
At thy blithe carol clears his furrowed brow.*

BURNS.





## DECEMBER 10.

*A Heap of Stones.*  
"Mispah"—Watchfulness.



"They took stones, and made an heap therefore was the name of it called Mispah: for he said, The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another."

GENESIS xxxi. 46-48-49

*Careless seems the great Avenger; history  
pages but record  
One death-grapple in the darkness 'twixt our  
systems and the word:  
Truth for ever on the scaffold, Wrong  
for ever on the throne;  
Yet the scaffold sways the future, and behind  
the dim unknown,  
Standeth God, within the shadow, keeping  
watch above His own.* LOWELL

"Pharaoh put a gold chain about his (Joseph's) neck."—GENESIS xli. 42.

*High worth is elevated place: 'tis more:  
It makes the poet stand candidate for thee:  
Makes more than monarchs—makes an honest  
man,  
Though no exchequer it commands, 'tis  
wealth:  
And though it wear no riband, 'tis renown:  
Renown that would not quit thee though  
disgraced,  
Nor leave thee pendant on a master's smile.*

YOUNG.

## DECEMBER 11.

*A Gold Chain.*  
Honour Conferred.



## DECEMBER 12.

*A Scrip and Sling.*  
Reliance on God.



"He took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in his scrip; and his sling was in his hand."

I SAMUEL xvii. 4

*But David, though he yielded  
To put the armour on,  
Soon found he could not wield it,  
And ventured forth with none.  
With only sling and pebble.  
He fought the fight of faith:  
The weapons seemed but feeble,  
Yet proved Goliath's death.*

JOHN NEWTON





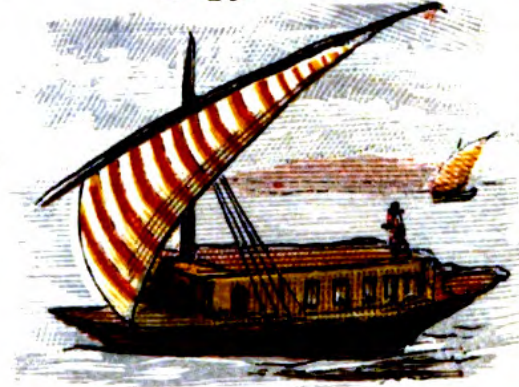
"Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away; they are passed away as the swift ships."—JOB ix. 25-26.

*Sigh not, thou failing heart,  
To see the ships depart,  
So swift and silent, o'er yon' watery plain;  
For though, like them, my days  
Are passing, as I gaze,  
What matter, if the distant Port I gain?*

THE COMPILERS.

## DECEMBER 13.

*Swift Ships.  
Flight of Time.*



## DECEMBER 14.

*White Raiment—Victory.*



"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment."—REVELATION iii. 5.

*Who are those arrayed in light,  
Clothed in righteousness divine,  
Wearing robes most pure and white,  
That unstained shall ever shine?  
Hallelujah's, hark, they sing,  
Solemn praise to God, their king.*

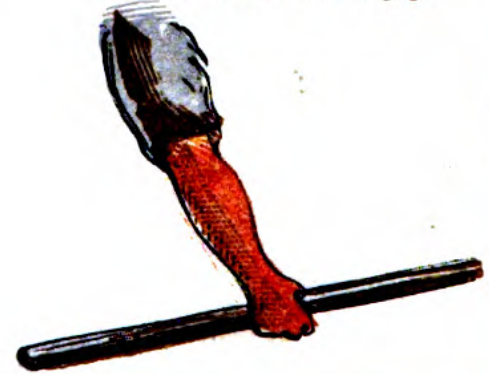
LYRA GERMANICA.

"In the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me."—ISAIAH xlix. 2.

*And what if now thy Father  
Should in His love decree,  
That thou within His quiver  
A polished shaft shalt be;  
Dost think thee how that polish  
Must be by sorrow wrought,  
How lessons, never conned in joy,  
Must be by suffering taught?*

H. V.

DECEMBER 15.  
*A Polished Shaft.  
God's Workmanship.*



## DECEMBER 16.

*Amber—Attraction.*



“Behold, a great cloud, and a brightness was about it, as the colour of amber.”

EZEKIEL i. 4

*Oh, how the thought of God attracts,  
And draws the heart from earth,  
And sickens it of passing shows  
And dissipating mirth!  
God only is the creature's home,  
Though rough and strait the road;  
Yet nothing less can satisfy  
The love that longs for God.*

FABER

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”—EPHESIANS vi. 16.

*Soldier! does the shadowy foe  
Darken the field of fight?  
Dauntless, hold up the shield of faith,  
For Christ shall give thee light.*

DRUMMOND.

## DECEMBER 17.

*The Shield—Faith.*



DECEMBER 18. „  
*A Wedding Garment.  
Preparation.*



“When the king came in to see the guests he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment.”—ST. MATT. xxii. 11.

“Prepare to meet thy God.”—AMOS iv. 12

*Think not of rest; though dreams be sweet  
Start up, and ply your heavenward feet.  
Is not God's oath upon your head,  
Ne'er to sink back on slothful bed,  
Never again your loins untie,  
Nor let your torches waste and die,  
'Till when the shadows thickest fall  
Ye hear your Master's midnight call?*

KEBLE

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"The foundations of the city were garnished with precious stones, the twelfth, an amethyst."  
REVELATION XXI. 19-20.

*Dreams in their development have breath,  
And tears, and tortures, and the touch of  
joy:  
They leave a weight upon our waking  
thoughts;  
They take a weight from off our waking  
toils.  
They do divide our being: they become  
A portion of ourselves, as of our time;  
And look like heralds of eternity.*

BYRON.

**DECEMBER 19.**  
*Amethysts—Dreams.*  
(Hebrew meaning.)



**DECEMBER 20.**

*The Lute—Thanksgiving.*  
(Prayer Book Version.)



"Praise the Lord with harp; sing praises unto him with the lute."—PSALM xxxiii. 2.  
*How lightly mounts the muses wing,  
Whose theme is in the skies;  
Like morning larks, that sweeter sing  
The nearer Heaven they rise.  
Though love his magic lyre may tune,  
Yet ah, the flowers he round it wreathes  
Were plucked beneath pale passion's moon,  
Whose madness in their odour breathes.  
How purer far the sacred lute,  
Round which devotion ties  
Sweet flowers that turn to heavenly truth,  
And palm that never dies.*

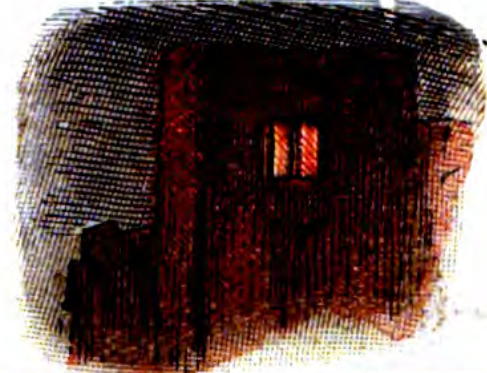
MOORE.

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."—ISAIAH ix. 2.

*Is there, on earth, a spirit frail,  
Who fears to take their word,  
Scarce daring, through the twilight pale,  
To think he sees the Lord?  
With eyes too tremblingly awake,  
To bear with dimness for His sake?  
Read, and confess the Hand Divine  
That drew thy likeness here so true in  
every line.*

KEBLE.

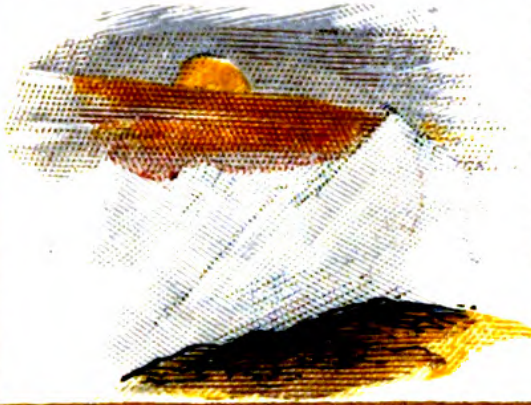
**DECEMBER 21.**  
ST. THOMAS' DAY.  
*A Light in Darkness.*  
Doubts Dispelled.





## DECEMBER 22.

*Frost by Night—Watching.*



“Thus I was: in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night.”

GENESIS xxxi. 40.

*The shepherd's sing, and shall I silent be?  
My God, no hymn for Thee?  
My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds  
Of thoughts, and words, and deeds.  
The pasture is Thy word: the streams Thy  
    grace,  
Enriching all the place;  
Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my  
    powers  
Outwing the daylight hours.*

GEORGE HERBERT.

“We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners.”

PSALM xx. 5.

*Drums and trumpets echo loudly,  
Wave the crimson banners proudly*

LONGFELLOW

*A day, a day of glory!  
A day that ends our woe!  
A day that tells of triumph  
Against the vanquished foe!  
Yield, summer's brightest sunrise  
To this December morn:  
Lift up your gates, ye princes,  
And let the child be born!*

NEALE.

## DECEMBER 23.

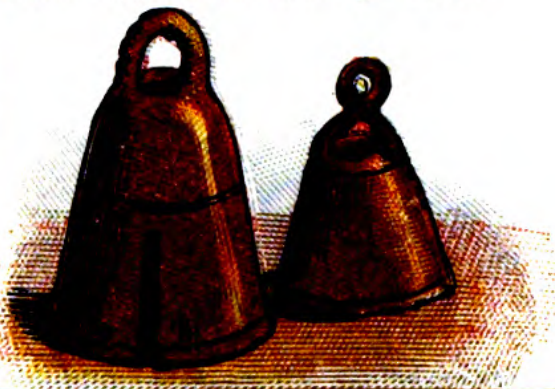
*Banners—Rejoicing.*



## DECEMBER 24.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

*Bells—Holiness unto the Lord.*



“In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, holiness unto the Lord.”

ZECHARIAH xiv. 20

*O Christmas, merry Christmas!  
This it never-more can be;  
We cannot bring again the days  
Of our unshadowed glee.  
But Christmas, happy Christmas,  
Sweet herald of good-will,  
With holy songs of glory  
Brings holy gladness still.  
For peace and hope may brighten,  
And patient love may glow,  
As we listen in the starlight  
To the bells across the snow.*

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for consistent and reliable data collection processes to ensure the validity of the results.

3. The third part of the document describes the different types of data that are collected and how they are used to inform decision-making. It notes that a combination of quantitative and qualitative data is often used to provide a comprehensive view of the organization's performance.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the challenges associated with data collection and analysis. It identifies common issues such as data quality, consistency, and availability, and provides strategies to address these challenges.

5. The fifth part of the document concludes by summarizing the key findings and recommendations. It emphasizes the importance of ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the organization remains on track and is able to adapt to changing circumstances.



**DECEMBER 25.**

CHRISTMAS DAY.

*A Manger—Humility.*

“She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”—ST. LUKE ii. 7

*It was the winter wild,  
While the Heaven-born child  
All meanly wrapt, in the rude manger  
lies:*

*Nature, in awe to Him  
Had doffed her gaudy trim,  
With her Great Master thus to  
sympathize.*

MILTON.



**DECEMBER 26.**

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY.

*The Dawn—Glory.*



“Until the day break, and the shadows flee away.”—CANTICLES ii. 17.

*As rays around the source of light  
Stream upward 'ere he glow in sight,  
And watching by his future flight  
Set the clear Heavens on fire;  
So on the king of martyrs wait  
Three chosen bands, in royal state;  
And all earth owns, of good and great,  
Is gathered in that choir.*

KEBLE.

“He called to the man which had the writer's inkhorn by his side.”—EZEKIEL ix. 3.

“He that sat upon the throne, said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

REVELATION xxi. 5.

*The things through mists and shadows dim,  
By holy prophets seen;  
In the full light of day they saw,  
With not a cloud between.  
What Christ, true man, divinely wrought,  
What God in manhood bore,  
They wrote, as God inspired, in words  
That live for evermore.*

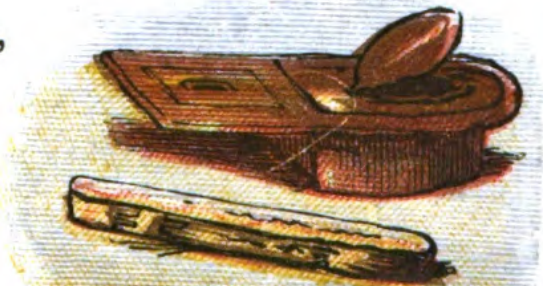
*From the LATIN.*

**DECEMBER 27.**

ST. JOHN EVANGELISTS' DAY.

*An Inkhorn.*

*A Symbol of Prophecy.*



**DECEMBER 28.**  
**THE INNOCENTS' DAY**  
*First Fruits.*  
**"Unspotted from the World."**



"These were redeemed from among men,  
 being the firstfruits unto God and the Lamb;  
 And in their mouth was found no guile; for  
 they are without fault before the throne of God."  
 REVELATION xiv. 4-5.

*Innocence, child beloved, is a guest from the  
 world of the blessed,  
 Beautiful, and in her hand a lily: on life  
 roaring billows  
 Swings she in safety, she heedeth them not  
 the ship she is sleeping.  
 Calmly she gazes around in the turmoil of  
 men in the desert.*

LONGFELLOW.

"They could not drink of the waters of  
 Marah, for they were bitter; and the waters  
 were made sweet."—EXODUS xv. 23-25.

*I see not a step before me, as I tread the days  
 of the year,  
 And the past is still in God's keeping, the  
 future His mercy shall clear:  
 And what looks dark in the distance, may  
 brighten as I draw near.  
 For perhaps the dreaded future has less  
 bitterness than I think,  
 The Lord may sweeten the water, before I  
 stoop to drink,  
 Or, if Marah must be Marah, He will stand  
 beside the brink.*

UNKNOWN.

**DECEMBER 29.**  
*The Waters of Marah.*  
**Divine Help in Trouble.**



**DECEMBER 30.**

*A Bright Star—Guidance.*



"There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and  
 a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel."  
 NUMBERS xxiv. 17

*Tell us, thou clear and heavenly tongue,  
 Where is the Babe that lately sprung?  
 Lies he the lily-banks among?  
 Or say, if this new birth of ours  
 Sleeps, laid within some ark of flowers,  
 Spangled with dew-light, thou can'st clear  
 All doubts, and manifest the where.  
 Declare to us, bright star, if we shall see  
 Him in the morning's blushing cheek,  
 Or search the beds of spices through,  
 To find him out?*

HERRICK.

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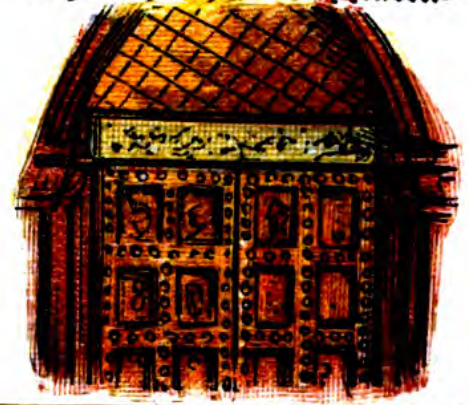
"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." REV. xxii. 13-14.

*The New Jerusalem,  
Like a resplendent gem,  
Sends down its heavenly light;  
Attracting our dull sight.  
I see the bright ones wait,  
At each fair pearly gate:  
I hear their voices call;  
I see the jasper wall,  
The clear, translucent gold,  
The glory all untold!*

BONAR.

**DECEMBER 31.**

*Gates of Pearl.  
The Threshold of Heaven.*





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<i>Almond (buds)</i> .....	Feb.	14	<i>Boughs (of thick trees)</i> .....	Oct.	1
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<i>Almug (trees)</i> .....	June	7	<i>Bowl (golden)</i> .....	Nov.	13
<i>Aloes (lign)</i> .....	April	11	<i>Box (tree)</i> .....	July	10
<i>Amber</i> .....	Dec.	16	<i>Box (alabaster)</i> .....	March	4
<i>Amethysts</i> .....	Dec.	19	<i>Bracelets</i> ..	Sep.	6
<i>Anchor (an)</i> .....	Jan.	3	<i>Bramble (the)</i> ..	May	21
<i>Angel (St. Michael)</i> .....	Sep.	29	<i>Branches (of figs)</i> .....	April	6
<i>Angle (an)</i> .....	July	12	<i>Branches (of vine)</i> .....	June	8
<i>Ants (the)</i> .....	Sep.	5	<i>Branches (of palm trees)</i> ...	Sep.	30
<i>Apple (tree)</i> .....	May	2	<i>Branches (of olive)</i> .....	Oct.	3
<i>Apples (of gold)</i> .....	Oct.	25	<i>Branches (of pine)</i> .....	Oct.	4
<i>Ark (the)</i> .....	Jan.	29	<i>Branches (of myrtle)</i> .....	Oct.	5
<i>Ark (of bulrushes)</i> ..	April	14	<i>Brass (burnished)</i> .....	Nov.	16
<i>Ark (of the Covenant)</i> .....	Nov.	28	<i>Bread (cast on waters)</i> .....	Feb.	10
<i>Ash (tree)</i> .....	April	13	<i>Bread (daily)</i> .....	March	27
<i>Asses (laden)</i> .....	Nov.	22	<i>Breastplate (a)</i> .....	Oct.	30
 			<i>Briers</i> .....	Nov.	15
<i>Balm (of Gilead)</i> .....	Oct.	18	<i>Brook (Cherith)</i> .....	Feb.	7
<i>Banners</i> .....	Dec.	23	<i>Brooks (water)</i> .....	May	28
<i>Barley (ear of)</i> .....	April	2	<i>Buckler</i> .....	Sep.	2
<i>Barley (ephah of)</i> .....	July	23	<i>Bush (burning)</i> .....	Dec.	6
<i>Basket (of figs)</i> .....	July	1	 		
<i>Basket (of summer fruit)</i> ...	July	18	<i>Cakes (on the hearth)</i> .....	March	29
<i>Basket (grape gatherer's)</i> ...	Aug.	20	<i>Calamus and Cinnamon</i> ...	Aug.	27
<i>Basket (of fragments)</i> .....	Nov.	27	<i>Camphire</i> ..	Sep.	3
<i>Bees (a swarm of)</i> .....	May	30	<i>Candlestick</i> .....	Feb.	26
<i>Bells</i> .....	Dec.	24	<i>Candle (shining)</i> .....	Nov.	18
<i>Beryl</i> .....	Aug.	25	<i>Cane (sweet)</i> .....	July	13
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<i>Cedar (tree)</i> .....	July 21	<i>Diamond (a)</i> .....	May 22
<i>Censer (golden)</i> .....	Nov. 2	<i>Dove (the)</i> .....	Feb. 5
<i>Chain (a gold)</i> .....	Dec. 11	<i>Dove (turtle)</i> .....	May 14
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