

## A SPRIG OF PARSLEY

It is delightful to be thought about and cared for. Personal happiness is greatly enlarged when that thought and care is directly expressed and almost hidden in the love that invokes it. And yet this is but the commonplace of family life in the home. A commonplace that, being common, witnesses to a God of love, in whom all good has its inception, and by whom every kind thought is inspired.

So, it seemed to me, when, so privileged, my breakfast was brought to me before I rose: a simple meal, and resting upon it, a sprig of parsley. A little thing in itself, and yet suggestive of so much. The little sprig added nothing to the utility of the food. It had had to be gathered at the time, to be, as it was, so redolent of the morning rime of the garden.

An incidental emblem often achieves the same result as a considered gift or action. It revives hope, stimulates endurance, and often merges mere surmise into possession. Lord Fisher in his "Records" mentions that when he was Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean he was one day inspecting a destroyer of 260 tons. The Admiral was shown over the boat by the young lieutenant in command. All was in first class order. When they came to the wheel an inscription caught Lord Fisher's eye—"Ut veniant omnes." "Hallo," he said, "what the deuce is that?" Saluting me, he said, "Let 'em

all come." Lord Fisher comments: "This was not boasting, but efficiency."

In all lives there are ill-suggestions that come and go uncontrolled by the conscious will. We hate them and would do anything in our power to escape from them. After some blessed time of quietness and peace, these invaders are sure to be near. Are we to run away, to seek shelter and yield to the blast? By no means; it were better to take the motto, so crudely rendered, from the tiny destroyer—"Let 'em all come." That small boat could do no effective work unless supported. So venturing to stand against all assaults we know that quite close, though unseen, is the supporting strength of the King of Kings and Lord of Hosts.

A sprig of parsley, in itself of no value—at one time even a symbol of folly—when offered secretly, in love, is invaluable; it becomes a conveying medium of comfort. It is almost vocal, speaking comfortably. In the days of Wicliffe and Hooker "to comfort," as the derivation of the word indicates, when used, did not always mean, as it so generally does now, to allay effort and soothe. Rather "to comfort" was to impart strength; to increase fortitude, to invigorate. In the days of martyrdom and persecution for the faith, a great deliverance was only rarely wrought, but power to endure was wonderfully granted. Christian heroes acquired strength while being led in the plane of the will of God. In the sixteenth century the pathway of the righteous

was not strewn with roses but with thorns.

We are unable to trace or define the influence that inspires the thought and care shewn towards each other by members of the family in the home, or shewn, by any one of them, to the stranger without the gate or to the outcast beyond the pale. It may be put down to natural character, or to habit and custom. May it not be like gravity in natural law—the accepted expression of the indomitable will of God.

More than a century ago—the story has often been told—Henry Martyn, Senior Wrangler, Missionary, and translator of the Bible into many languages, when in some gloom and depression on his way to commence his great career in India, called at the Cape of Good Hope, at that time on the British highway to the East. He rose early to walk up Table Mountain.

He wrote: "I went on chiefly alone. I thought on the Christian life—what uphill work it is—and yet there are streams flowing down from the heights, just as there was water coming down by the kloof which we ascended. Towards the top it was very steep, but the hope of being soon at the summit encouraged us to ascend very lightly." As the kloof opened, a beautiful flame-coloured flower appeared in a little green hollow, waving in the breeze. Mr. Martyn wrote: "It seemed to be an emblem of the beauty and peace of heaven, as it shall open upon the

## THE DIOCESAN INTERCESSION PAPER

### Let us pray for—

The Church throughout the world.  
The Church in New Zealand  
The Bishops and Clergy  
The Board of Missions.  
The Church in this Diocese.  
The Bishop and Clergy.  
The Bishop of Aotearoa.  
The Dean and Chapter.  
The Deaconesses.  
The Lay Readers in the Diocese.  
The Synod of the Diocese.  
The Standing Committee and all Boards of Trustees.  
The Board of Nomination

### The Schools Established in this Diocese.

Te Aute College.  
Hukarere School  
Waerenga-a-hika College.  
Hereworth School.

### The Mission Houses.

Ruatoki (Miss Cruden and Miss Goddard).  
Whakarewarewa (The Misses Bulstrode and Miss Snoad).  
Tokomaru (Miss Davis).

Manutuke (Miss Price, Miss Craig and Miss Taylor).  
Te Hauke (Miss Aplin).  
Hauti (Miss Bartrum and Miss Phillipotts).

### The Diocesan Institutions.

St. Mary's Home, Napier (Nurses Carter and helpers).  
St. Hilda's Home, Otane (Miss Waller and helpers).  
G.F.S. Lodge, Napier.  
Abbotsford Children's Home (Miss Jones and helpers).  
Deaconess House, Gisborne ((Deaconess Esther Brand).

### Organisations Established in the Diocese.

The Church of England Men's Society.  
The Girls' Friendly Society.  
The Mothers' Union.  
The N.Z. Anglican Bible Class Union.  
The Sunday School Teachers' Association.

### The Officials of the Diocese.

The Archdeacons  
The Diocesan Secretary & Treasurer.  
The Editor of the Gazette.

### FOR BLANCHE TOBIN.

O Lord, Who hearest prayer, give ear unto our petitions; and grant that Blanche Tobin, and those with her, who are in serious danger in Kweilin at the hands of Chinese bandits, being protected in all dangers may be speedily delivered by Thy almighty power; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### FOR THE CHURCH.

O Lord Jesus Christ, mighty in battle, fill, we beseech Thee, Thy church militant with Thy almighty power. Give her courage to attack all strongholds of the enemy; arm her with patience under apparent failure, and perseverance against renewed opposition. Above all, kindle in her such love of souls for Thy most blessed sake, that she may toil and travail for the salvation of all men, and may always and everywhere reflect Thy image and impart Thy consolation; Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest, one God for ever. Amen.