

# THE STAR AND BANNER.

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THE WEEKLY BANNER.  
 PUBLISHED BY G. H. BURLEIGH.

**THE EVENING HYMN.**  
 Another day with quietude,  
 Has gone down yonder sky,  
 And still we breathe the same fresh air,  
 As when first we hung on high.  
 The sinking sun, the darkening cloud,  
 The draw the lightning in its rear,  
 The thunder, rumbling deep and loud,  
 Have left no footmark there.  
 The village bells, with silver chiming,  
 Sweetly ring out from the distant spire,  
 Though I have heard them many a time,  
 They never rang so sweet before.  
 A stillness rests upon the hill,  
 A hush is on the wind,  
 The very flowers are still, and still,  
 And bowed as if in prayer.  
 And in this hushed and breathless scene,  
 Our souls and hearts are drawn to God,  
 A still low voice in solemn tone,  
 Which speaks alone, great God, of Thee.  
 The whistling leaves, the far-off brook,  
 The hum of bees, the homeward croak,  
 All these Thy Maker own.  
 The dew-drops glisten, the fading leaves,  
 The flowers that wither in the breeze,  
 All these Thy Maker own.  
 And other scenes, as sweet as this,  
 Will sleep upon calm seas,  
 When, in the dawn, the sun shall rise,  
 And with its rays shall sweep away  
 All that is dark and drear and sad,  
 And with its light shall cheer and glad,  
 And with its warmth shall melt and melt,  
 All that is cold and hard and dead,  
 And with its power shall give and give,  
 All that is weak and low and sad,  
 And with its love shall love and love,  
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 And with its love shall love and love,  
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**THE PRAYER OF HABAUKKUK.**  
 It is said of Dr. Franklin, that during his long residence in Paris, being invited to a party of the nobility, where most of the court and courtiers were present, he produced a great sensation by one of his bold movements and gained great applause for his ingenuity.  
 According to the custom of that age and country, the nobles after the usual ceremonies of the evening were over, sat down to a free and promiscuous conversation. Christianity was then the great topic.—The church was always ridiculed, and the Bible was treated with unparalyzing severity. Growing warmer and warmer in their sarcastic remarks, one great lord commanded, for a moment, universal attention, by his asserting in a round voice, that the bible was not only a piece of arrant deception, but totally devoid of literary merit. Although the entire company of Frenchmen nodded a hearty assent to the sentence, Franklin gave no signs of approval. Being at that time a court favorite, his companions could not bear even a tacit reproach from a man of his weight of influence.—They all appeared to him for his opinion.  
 Franklin, in one of his peculiar ways, replied that he was hardly prepared to give them an epigrammatic answer, as his mind had been ransacking on the merits of a new book of rare excellence, which he had just happened to fall in with at one of the city book stores; and as they had pleased to make allusion to the literary character of the Bible perhaps it might interest them to compare with that old volume the merits of his new prize. If so he would read them a short section. All were eager to have the Doctor read them a portion of this rare book. In a very grave and sincere manner, he took an old book from his coat pocket, and with propriety of utterance read these a poem.  
 The poem had its effect. The admiring listeners pronounced it the best they had ever heard. "What is it, pretty?" said one. "It is a substance," said another. "It is the most superior in the world," was the unanimous opinion. They all wished to know the name of the new work, and whether that was a specimen of its contents. "Certainly, gentlemen," said the Doctor, smiling at their triumph, "my book is full of such passages. It is no other than your good old-fashioned Bible; and I have read to you the prayer of the prophet Habakkuk."  
 The Doctor then took wisdom from this old book, and learn to appreciate the unequalled nobility of the Bible.

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**THE FACTORY OF FINDING FAULT.**  
 "It is a very easy thing, for us to see many young men excel in it who never succeeded in anything else."

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