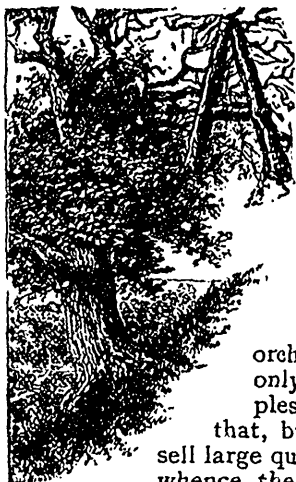


Good Seed.

By the Editor.

[ORIGINAL.]



FEW years ago I was taking supper at a farmer's house, and among the articles of food placed upon the table was an apple pie. As the farmer's daughter served me she said, "Mr. S—you will wonder when I tell you that while we have no portion of land set apart for an orchard, yet we have not only an abundance of apples, and very good ones at that, but we are also able to sell large quantities." Upon asking whence the supply came, she said, "My Grandfather was somewhat eccentric in his manner, and whenever he ate an apple of good quality, he put the seeds into his vest pocket, and brought them home, and during the spring or summer, while about his work on the farm, you might see him stooping down, and with a little stick making a hole in the ground, and in this he would carefully place a few of the seeds. The result is that now there is scarcely an acre of the cleared part of our farm but has upon it an apple tree bearing fruit." As she told me this I at once felt interested in that man, long since dead, whom I had never seen, and never would see in the flesh, yet I was enjoying the fruit of his labour; and as I thought of the epithet *eccentric*, applied to him while living, and even after his death, and of the laugh, if not the sneer of his workmen, as "the *eccentric* old man" knelt down to sow those seeds, it occurred to me that the need of our day is men who are willing to bear the scoff and ridicule of the world, and, heedless of the same, to go on prayerfully sowing seed which shall yield rich fruit in coming ages.

Friends, if the past has not found us "on bended knee," sowing good seed, let not the future be marked by continued neglect, for if we fail in this respect, we fail to do the work for which we have been called. Let us scatter the seed of "the Word"—"the incorruptible seed", and let us be ever sowing (Eccles. xi. 6), relying on the promise, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy" Ps. cxxvi. 6), and while the reaping may not be in this life, it will certainly come, for our "works will follow" Rev. xiv. 13).

Go then ever, weeping, sowing for the Master,

Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves:
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Outline of Bible Study.

By the Editor.

CROSSING JORDAN.—Joshua iii.

Illustrative of the Gospel.

- 1. It was a strange way.**
The Israelites did not expect such a strange opening.—Acts xvii. 18-20.
- 2. It was a new way.**
Jordan was never crossed in that way before.—Heb. x. 20.
- 3. It was an easy way.**
No works were needed. No rafts to be constructed. No bridges to be erected.—Eph. ii. 8, 9.
- 4. It was a direct way.**
There was no drifting down with a current. They went *straight* over.—John vi. 47.
- 5. It was a safe way.**
All the people passed clean over.—Jn. x. 28.
- 6. It was a divinely appointed way.**
Joshua did not devise it, nor Israel ask for it.—John iii. 16.
- 7. It was the only way.**
If they had refused to accept it, they could not have crossed Jordan.—Acts iv. 12.

Gems Re-set.

I WOULD not give one moment of heaven for all the joy and riches of the world, even if it lasted for thousands and thousands of years.—*Luther*.

CONSOLATION is the dropping of a gentle dew from heaven on the desert hearts beneath; it is one of the choicest gifts of Divine mercy.—*Spurgeon*.

WHAT a wonderful thought—the two growths in a believer. He grows weaker in self, and stronger in Christ. HE must increase: I, the I dwindles away, until at the river it is lost in the waters of death.

"SWEEP a circle seven feet around the Cross, and you take in all that there was of Alfred Cookman." Such was Punshon's estimate of the famous American divine. Friend, how near to the cross are you and your possessions to be found?

Do not put down this paper without settling the question of your salvation. Are you saved now? Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour? "He that hath the Son hath life."