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Editorial.

“AN HANDFUL OF CORN.”

The mission of Mr. Moody to Britain is now finished, and men, very naturally begin to calculate the results. It is fair and reasonable, as well as natural to ask for results, but in asking for results, in a spiritual sowing of this kind, let us remember:—

1. That a certain allowance is made, in all kinds of sowing, for some seed being lost. Is it not in the mouth of our children as the rule for sowing our corn—one grain for the grub, one for the birds, and so on, while only the remainder belongs to the sower as likely to carry seed. The parable of the sower recognizes the same rule of allowance for waste, assigning so much of the seed sown to the birds, so much to the climate, and so much to the weeds. Let us be prepared then to fear that of the seed sown, so patiently by Mr. Moody, a large proportion will come short of yielding the very lowest return that is compatible with fruitfulness in the eyes of the Divine husbandman.

2. That a wide range of observation is necessary to estimate correctly the value of a harvest. It is a narrow view even of a wheat harvest to content oneself with estimating the num-

ber of bushels measured in the barn of bare grain. To understand aright the value of so many *sheaves* of wheat, one must estimate how many pounds and tons of *bread* these sheaves will produce, and how many families that bread will *nourish*, how much work that nourishment will enable the workmen in these families to do, and how much that work is worth to the workmen themselves and to society. To have a correct estimate therefore of the true value of the harvests of a country one must bring within the sphere of his vision and within the scope of his calculation, that building up of flesh and blood, of bone and muscle that comes from the bread, as also the works of art, of skill, of use and of luxury that comes from the bone and the muscle. The harvests of a country, therefore, are to be seen not simply and proximately in so many bushels of wheat or loaves of bread, but indirectly and remotely in the ships that float in its harbours, and in the railroads that fret the face of the land.

To understand properly and value aright the product of spiritual sowing, we must after the same fashion widen the horizon of observation, and bring into our calculation something more than the number of hearers and the