

THE CHILDREN'S PORTION.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS FOR THE CHILDREN.

BY ALPHEUS.

SOWING AND REAPING.

Now in the spring time every farmer is busy sowing and planting. He stalks over his fields, casts the seeds around him, then with a harrow covers it out of sight, and takes no rest till all his reserved grain is thus disposed of. To one utterly ignorant of the results, the farmer's action seems very foolish. Why throw away precious grain? What madness to waste the good mercies given us! Well the farmer knows that the only way to increase his substance is to scatter it abroad. It would mean certain poverty were he to greedily hold on to all he secures from the farm. The same principle holds good in every walk of life and is as true to-day as when the wise man said it. There is that scattereth and yet increaseth. There is that withholdeth more than is meet and it tendeth to poverty. We are all sowers and like the farmer we will all in due time reap. But the spring time of life is when the soil is mellow, and the youthful nature is full of hope; is when the seeds daily sown are the sure index of what our future shall be, both in time and eternity. What are some of those seeds that the young readers of the *Advocate* are sowing? Do little acts of selfishness often exhibit themselves in the daily life? If so, these will in due time ripen into meanness—and in the final harvest these will be a total unfitness for the company of Him who “though He was rich yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich.” Or are you constantly dropping seeds of disobedience, discontent, wilfulness and waywardness? If so, what fruit will we look for in the coming harvest? Every seed will be many times multiplied, and unless you are renewed by God's grace you can have no place in heaven. You remember the young man who demanded his portion and then went to a far country and wasted his substance in riotous living. In his reaping time he joined himself to a citizen of that country who sent him into his fields to feed swine, and he then was fain to fill his belly with the husks that the swine did eat, and he was despised by everybody, till he came to himself; and this is the certain harvest of every selfish person. Perhaps some one is thinking it is better not to take the trouble to put in *any* seed. What will be the result if the farmer leaves his fields unploughed, and uncared for and unsown? Why a heavy crop of tangled weeds fit only to be gathered and burned. And if any of you neglect the positive formation of character while young, then a like result will be seen in the aimless, thriftless afterlife. When we look for fruit there will be nothing but leaves and the whole life will turn out an utter failure. Now, what are some of the seeds we should be constantly planting in this spring time? I will only name a few of them. *Be kind one to another.* If you plant two or three of this particular seed every day you will have such a big return when the full harvest comes that you will scarcely believe your own senses; you will perhaps say “where saw we the hungry