

desert to rejoice, and blossom as the rose." Begin, then, with whatever lies nearest to hand, without

"Waiting for some great thing to do,
Some secret thing to know,
Content to fill a little space
If He be glorified."

"If found faithful in that which is least, He may yet make thee ruler over many things." "Sow by all waters." "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

Scorn not the slightest word or deed,
Nor deem it void of power;
There's fruit in each wind-wafted seed,
Waiting its natal hour.

A whispered word may touch the heart,
And call it back to life;
A look of love bid sin depart,
And still unholy strife.

No act falls fruitless; none can tell
How vast its power may be,
Nor what results unfolded dwell
Within it silently.

A PLEA FOR THE SABBATH.

THE REPORT OF SYNOD'S COMMITTEE ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Committee on Sabbath observance beg leave to report:—

That no change or incident of consequence, as affecting either the better or worse observance of the Sabbath, has occurred in the Province since the meeting of Synod last year.

We trust the statement is as true as it is pleasant, that the christian people of Canada, almost without exception, believe in the divine authority, sanctity, and perpetual obligation of the Sabbath. And, after making just allowance for the heterogeneous origin and varied religious culture of the general population, and for the circumstances of the more recently and thinly settled districts, perhaps in no country in the world is the Lord's day, on the whole, regarded with more reverence than in our own.

Yet would we be most unwisely flattering ourselves, and encouraging the already too great neglect of an evil, which, more than any other overt transgression of Divine law, lies at the root of all irreligion and social immorality, if we thought and said that the general observance of the Sabbath among our people was, or was nearly, what it ought to be.

In cities, towns, villages, and purely rural neighbourhoods, every lover of God and his kind must be painfully aware of a vast amount of open Sabbath neglect and desecration. We have no data upon which to found with certainty; but we think we do not exaggerate when we estimate the number of people, who might attend, not found in any sanctuary at one time upon the Lord's day, as amounting fully to one half of the population. And what with drinking, though public-houses are closed by law, and