

Let us not be weary in well-doing.—Gal. vi. 9.

[SELECTED.]

The Hindrances of the Husbandman.



HINDRANCES and trials,—thorns and thistles,—these have been since the Fall; they will be until the great harvest-home. An enemy has been at work,—there will be tares and wheat growing together until the harvest.

Over some of his hindrances the husbandman has no control; over others only very partial.

Some hindrances there are which are of his own allowing, if not originally of his own making, such as the permission to weeds to get the mastery over the ground. But let the tiller of the soil be never so careful, he will be hindered and tried by insects, blights; and those thousand enemies which have arisen against him since the Fall.

We may be quite sure that the husbandman of the soul will find them too. We find heart-weeds springing up, we know not how, and growing all sorts of ways, just as natural weeds spread over the surface from one small spot, some gradually elbowing out the useful grasses, some drawing the nourishment from the surrounding corn.

And as it is with the husbandman, so is it with us—we never seem to get rid of the weeds. Some seeds crawl, some fly, some get imported with others of a different kind; but they are always present. And evil comes to us in many different ways. Sometimes, what happened a long way off, injuriously affects us; sometimes the hindrance comes from a neighbour—blown, so to speak, over his wall, and at times we find bad things rising within us, as though they were simply indigenous to the soil. We have had thoughts, concerning which we are utterly puzzled as to whence they have come. We have no desire for them; perhaps they are even altogether out of our beat of thought. We have wishes which we have mortified over and over again: still they spring up again as fresh as ever. There is some comfort, however, to be got even from these: we shall not gather them in heaps and burn them for nought. Burnt weeds make manure which strengthens useful plants. St. Augustine said, he made his sins a ladder on which to climb to heaven: each one he trod under foot

enabled him to mount the higher. Every burnt weed will help to nourish some useful plant: some flower will be the fairer, some fruit the richer for its ashes.

Perhaps our hindrances come from friends; or from the circumstances in life in which we are placed. Well, our Blessed Lord, Whose lifetime was husbandry for His Father, met with these every turn. His own family were hinderers,—His own disciples,—the people amongst whom he lived. What work He did was not with human help, but in spite of human hindrance. We may expect the like; but the hindrances need not daunt us. Every stack of corn is a monument of the husbandmans triumph over hindrances. We may be sore "let and hindered," as it says in the collect; but let us determine to be husbandmen *in* our souls, and *to* our souls for God, and say: "Thou, O my Lord, shalt reap a harvest from intellect, affections—all I have." And going forth, it may be, weeping, bearing precious seed, you shall have your reaping-time, and come again with rejoicing, bringing your sheaves with you (Psa. cxxvi. 6).

To The Work.

MR. W. A. BRIGGS, second son of Mr. S. R. Briggs, Manager of the Toronto Willard Tract Depository, sails from New York on Tuesday, 7th July, for Jamaica W. I. I., where he is to engage in the Evangelistic Mission on that Island. This Mission was established several years ago by Rev. Dr. Johnston, who still retains control of the work. It has been greatly blessed, and has grown to large proportions. We hope at an early day to give some account of the work. In the meantime we ask our readers to remember our young brother who now enters the field, and pray that God may bless him, and make him a blessing.

MR. W. P. CROMBIE, Evangelist, whose labours have been much blessed to the conversion of young men, is now in Toronto, resting with friends, preparatory to entering the field of labor once more.

MR. GAY has been serving the Master in regular pastoral work for the past two months. His incessant labors in evangelistic work had materially affected his health, rendering it absolutely necessary that partial rest should be taken. He expects in a few weeks to leave the field where he has been doing a good work (while at the same time recruiting health), and resume his evangelistic labours.