

"It gives bread to the eater." And the spiritual life in like manner is nourished by the Eternal Word, which, though it has dwelt for centuries on earth, is freshly sent as a message to each soul from heaven.

(b) *And it gives seed to the sower*, whether a teacher or preacher of God's Word directly; or a social or temperance reformer; the advocate of the children's cause; the earnest helper of hospital or blind asylum. Whether he toils to overthrow social tyranny, or writes in the newspaper, or pleads in Parliament for redressing the wrongs of the overwrought and underpaid, he draws his inspiration, directly or indirectly, from that life-giving Word which of old was brought down from heaven, and which is for ever returning thither for renewed vitalising force. Are we not, in these later times, learning, in our social efforts, to read a new meaning in the old words, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself;" and do we not see here a fresh proof that the Word of God contains still secret stores which need but the mystic touch of God's Spirit to become sources of fresh life to man?

BY THE REV J. HARRIS KNOWLES.

A month among the happy living dead.

What wonders must have flashed within
thyne eyes.

Which see the glories of that Paradise.
Whose splendours now before thy gaze are
spread!

No more the weary earth, no more the dread
Of loss or failure, or the sad surprise

Of mortal sin; the way before thee lies
Straight to the feet of Him, our Risen Head.
As, on the earth, thou didst His Presence
hail

Upon His Altar Throne, in that sweet
Feast.

Which told thee that His love should never
fail;

So now, that Love which met thee at the
Rail.

Doth welcome thee, all earthly toil sur-
ceased.

Thy dress all purged away, thy gold in-
creased.

GAMBLING is notoriously the tempta-
tion of the pit populations of Dur-
ham and Northumberland. Canon
Whitley, the venerable vicar of Bed-
lington (Senior Wrangler in 1830),
preached a very earnest and also
closely reasoned sermon on the sin
of betting, and showed, *inter alia*,
how foolish it was to stake money
when the chance of winning was so
small. Two pitmen, discussing the
sermon afterwards, were heard to
say they felt sure "the vicar must
have betted a lot hissel in his time,
or he woodna ha knowed sa much
about it." The Canon is very fond
of telling the story against himself.

MUSHROOMS.

A friend took me into his hot-
house, where he had prepared a
mushroom bed: it was beaten down
until hard as a stone; yet through
this the apparently weak fungi
would push their way. Unlike us,
the harder their bed the better they
like it, and I was assured that if a
stone, a tile, or a flower-pot was
placed above them, they would grow
up notwithstanding. God's people
are in their Christian life of the same
sort; opposition developes faith.
The Egyptians oppressed the
Hebrews; but the more they did so,
the more they thrived. "Others had
trial of cruel mockings and scourg-
ings, yea, moreover of bonds and
imprisonment: they were stoned,
they were sawn asunder" (Heb. xi.
36, 37); yet, though seemingly weak,
they "out of weakness were made
strong" (v. 34). A hard bed suits
the Church of God better than
downy pillows.—*Selected.*