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The Seed and the Seed-Time.

Again Spring returns. The flowers begin to appear in the earth, and the time of the singing of birds is come. This is the season of ploughing, and sowing, of the gentle early rain.

Sabbath-scholar! you are now in the spring-time of your days. Your hearts are the soil, your teachers the sowers, sent forth to sow; and the truth they teach is the incorruptible seed of the word, which liveth and abideth for ever.

If ever your souls are to be saved, it will be through means of that living word of God. Therefore it is that your teachers labor to store it up in your memories. They know that the Spirit can render that word the power of God unto salvation, even long years after you have learned it by heart.

Some years ago, on unrolling a mummy, discovered in the tombs of the ancient Egypt, there was found in the chest, along with the dead body, a few grains of wheat. Some of these grains

were brought to England; two or three of them were procured by a minister, who sowed them in the earth. The mummy was supposed to have belonged to about the time of Joseph; and so, who can tell but that these grains were once in the storehouses where Joseph stored up the corn, for the years of coming famine? In this way they may have been four thousand years old. But when planted in the earth, at the scent of water they began to bud, and soon, the grains and stalks multiplying year by year, the minister had a small plot of ground covered with growing corn, from seed that to all appearance had been dead for four thousand years. And is not this like the precious word, sown in the heart in childhood! Long as it may have lain to all appearance dead, the Spirit of God, even after a lifetime of ungodliness, can make it take root and grow.

Who can tell the fruits of the conversion of a single soul! It is said of the good seed, in the parable, that it brought