

itself: one aspect or shade, or part of it, leads to another and still another indefinitely, ever opening new vistas into the unknown, or leading to the realization of the truth that lies too often hidden under the veil of most familiar words and phrases, and figures of speech.

The farmer that would expect to see the golden harvest in a day or two after he had sown his seed, would not be more irrational than the man who expects to enjoy at once the full results of his labours for the intellectual and spiritual welfare of men. The warnings and lessons of the Sabbath school are not seldom re-called in maturity on a sick or dying bed. Texts and hymns that had long lain dormant in the mind flash into sudden vitality and brightness when most required. We could quote illustrations of this statement both from our own observation and from the story of many a life.

Parents often toil and pray for the salvation of their children amid overwhelming discouragements. No result seems to follow; but not seldom after the father's gray hairs are dragged in sorrow to the grave, after a mother's heart is broken, their prayers are answered and the prodigal returns to the paths of virtue and the heavenly father's embrace. Oftener, however, parents are spared to rejoice in the fulfilment of God's gracious promise with respect to their children. Trained aright, taught aright,—they walk in the ways of peace; and not the least pleasing feature in their case is that they never delight to recall, and if possible to repay, with unfailling gratitude, the debt they owe to their parents.

So too with Sabbath school teachers. Letters posted in far foreign lands, blotted with tears of affection and of penitence, often tell of the precious seed bearing precious fruit. The faithful teacher in the common school has a field of far-reaching usefulness open to him. He can win the love and gratitude of scores of the future men and women of the country; he can lay them under obligations which they never can fully repay, but which it will afford them delight ever to acknowledge. They are few indeed who do not love their

schoolmaster if he was at all a man of the right stamp, warm-hearted, enthusiastic, faithful withal; loving the children as if they were his own, and watching with anxious care the budding and blossoming of their intellectual powers. Be not discouraged then, though your labours are arduous; for the true work of a true man, however humble, is never in vain.

Emphatically is this true of the Professors of our Colleges. The loyalty of the Highlander to his chief is not more ardent and unchanging than that of the good student to the good Professor. Every lecture, every well-turned sentence, every happy thought, tells on some quick ear, is appreciated, treasured up, and exercises an influence on the intellectual life. The Professor is addressing directly but a small circle of students; indirectly he is addressing and influencing thousands. *His* labour is not in vain in the Lord. There are at least a few in every class who have clear heads and warm hearts, and who never will forget their Professor and his teachings.

The man who patriotically devotes his energies to the public good, sacrificing all for his country, is often rewarded with distrust, and he may never be rightly appreciated until he shall have passed away from the scene of his toil and self-denial. But the future is his friend. History will do him justice. The Ruler of all will take care that his labour shall not be in vain. See how the clouds of obloquy have rolled away from the noble brows of JOHN KNOX, and of JOHN MILTON, and of OLIVER CROMWELL! How incomparably superior do they stand this day in their principles and their works to their foes and persecutors! They sowed seed which has sprung up into a glorious harvest throughout the civilized world.

The conscientious labourer in the current literature of his country, labours not in vain in the Lord. There may be much to discourage, and annoy, and perplex. Arduous toil may be but ill rewarded so far as worldly gain is concerned. But the consciousness remains that the seed sown shall bring forth much fruit in due season. The writer of tracts, the distributor of tracts, the