

to sow, in God's House, again and again, the seed of God's word in, it may be, a thousand hearts at once. Anxious sowing; sometimes seemingly profitless sowing. Yet we sow, by drill in the weekly converse, broadcast in the House of God. And then the sower passes, and he goes about his daily work; he sleeps, it may be that long sleep that men call death. And he leaves the seed to germinate, he knoweth not how. He leaves it to other influences, to the power implanted by God in seed and soil combined; to the breath and dew of God's Holy Spirit. He may pass, and fall asleep, and never have known of the result. Yet it may be that, though the sower knew not, the seed had taken hold, and, after possibly a long dormant time, the impulse and stir of life has come from the Life-Giver, and, unseen by human eye, the seed begins to swell, and to put root downward into the softened soil, and to send shoot upward. And the thin green blade of awakened spiritual life breaks then, with its weak might, the hard surface of indifference and of evil habit. And the corn grows fair and stately, and sends out the ear, from which the stamens tremble in the soft air; and in the summer sunshine, or even, later sometimes, in the day, growing now autumnal, the light green husks fill out, and presently the stalk bends under the blue heaven with the golden treasure of the full corn in the ear.

And then comes the Reaping. When the fruit is brought forth, immediately He putteth in the sickle. And His reapers are the angels. The Husbandman knows, and watches, and gives the word. As he knows when hope for the worthless dandelion is past, and it is ready for the burning, so He knows also when the good corn is full in the ear, and the fruit is ripe, and the harvest has come.

And this explains to us many problems. A precious life, we may have noted, a life of early piety, of maturity, of saintliness even in life's young days. And from this we may have looked forward to a long life of usefulness for God. But have we not often noticed how *early ripening* means *early reaping*? The fruit was ripe, and the Lord of the Harvest knew this.

Or a life we noted, of, as it were, veteran corn. It has grown on, through Spring and Summer, ever growing and maturing—useful, indeed, and precious, in a world of prevailing weeds, and of feeble growth of even good seed. But, suddenly and in full strength, it bends before the sickle. We had not realised that it was full ripened. But the Lord of the Harvest knows.

Ever the reaper is going on, but ever nearer is drawing the day of the Lord's great Harvest. Daily the reapers are carefully binding the grain into sheaves, and

the great Harvest sowers and reapers shall rejoice together—sowers and reapers, and living garnered grain. The sharp sickle shall then be laid by, becoming but a harvest trophy. Those who resigned their treasures with tearful trust shall find them safe in the keeping of the Lord of the Harvest.

Ah, friends, there is much to be achieved here that few are attempting now, and those few, often, but languidly! There is seed to be sown, here and now, that might, if we may say so, increase God's Harvest sixty and a hundredfold. Issues of Eternity depend upon our labours in Time; and occasions, every moment, are passed by, neglected, unimproved, each of which is worth an angel's ransom.

Lo, the autumn days are with us, and the hour of work is on the wane. Let us be sowing diligently, and on every likely or unlikely plot, in season and out of season, that we, even we, may be swelling the fulness of the Harvest of God. And that, at the great day of harvest rejoicing, we, even we also, may rejoice, entering the joy of our Lord, bearing our sheaves with us.

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## ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY.

(AUGUST 24TH.)

HE bore an agony whereof the name  
Hath turned his fellows pale;  
But what if God should call us to the same;  
Should call,—and we should fail?

Nor earth nor sea could swallow up our shame,  
Nor darkness draw a veil;  
For He endured that agony whose name  
Hath made his fellows quail.

From Verses by CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI.

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## GARDEN WORK FOR AUGUST.

### Kitchen Garden.

**P**REPARE the ground, and sow cabbage seed for the spring and early summer requirements. Sow also coleworts and red cabbage. Plant out savoy and broccoli. Sow winter and spring onions, also early horn carrot. Earth up celery plants where necessary, taking care to keep the hearts of the plants free from earth. Cauliflower seed should be sown from the eighteenth to the twenty-fifth of the month. Sow winter spinach. Plant out lettuces.

### Fruit Garden.

Remove all new shoots on vines. Look over wall trees, and keep all branches nailed securely.

### Flower Garden.

Propagate pansies from cuttings, and plant out seedlings. Plant out pinks, sweetwilliams, wall-flowers, Canterbury-bells, stocks, polyanthus, and picrotes. Remove all dead and decaying stems, leaves, and flowers.