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PRACTICAL GRATITUDE.

It will be generally admitted that we have, as a community, abundant cause of gratitude to the great Giver of all good, for His kindness to us in regard to the season of the year, and the ingathering of the fruits of the earth. There may have been partial failures in special localities, and there may be some disappointment of the hopes of the husbandman as to the result in particular instances. But none can deny that God's goodness has been abundantly manifested towards us, and that the season has been marked with many tokens of the divine favour. The summer's heat has been tempered with seasonable and refreshing showers. The armies of devouring insects, against which all the resources of man are powerless, have been held in check, and have not been allowed materially to injure the precious fruits of the earth. We have to thank God that there will be no scarcity in our land, and that all the necessaries of life may be obtained at reasonable rates. These blessings, although common, are no less to be attributed to the favour and kindness of Him, from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift, and who in His word, often declares, in contrast with the false pretences of idolatry, His exclusive power to control the seasons, and to bring down at his pleasure rain to refresh the earth.

While the season has been on the whole favourable, and while there has been a due proportion of sunshine and moisture, to promote the growth and maturity of the fruits of the earth, there has been nothing to interrupt the labours of the husbandman, or to call his attention to other and less agreeable avocations. He has not been called upon to lay aside the plough or sickle for the weapons of bloody war. He has not had to witness his fertile fields and luxurious crops trampled down and wasted by the tread of armed ranks. The crops have not been left to waste, because there have been none to gather them in. Scenes like these might have been witnessed in our land. Scenes like these, we believe, may be witnessed in some parts of the neighbouring territory. But while wars and invasions and hostile encounters have there spread their sad results around, we have enjoyed peace, and security, and quietness, so that it may be truly said that we can sit under our vine and under our figtree with none to make us afraid.

For blessings like these we are called upon, not only as individuals, but as a community, to express our gratitude. We trust there will be, either by appointment of our own Moderator, or by a more public appointment, a day