

ing, and Sabbath-breaking, and let God's good Spirit guide you to the open sea of righteousness and love.

The Seed is the Word of God.

Luke viii. 11.

The sowers sow from year to year,
Obedient to their Lord's command ;
And if but few the fruits appear,
They cannot yet withhold their hand.

Though often "weeping as they go,"
They still pursue their patient toil:
The seed, the living seed, they sow;
But hard and rugged is the soil.

Do Thou, O Lord! break up the ground;
Do thou destroy each noisome weed;
And then shall many hearts be found
Waiting and ready for the seed.

Send dew by night, by day the shower,
Yea, times of "sweet refreshing" give:
For oh! 'tis *not by might nor power,*
But by Thy Spirit sinners live.

A Pastor's Sense of Responsibility.

Said an eminent minister at a late meeting:—"I believe it depends on me, whether or not my congregation shall do as well as the last year. I am persuaded that if I am faithful to Christ—if the influences of prayer and holy living, and faithful presentation of truth, are brought to bear, the people will not be backward. If I can only fill my own mind with the magnitude and glory of this great cause, and keep it filled—if in all my intercourse I make it manifest that my heart beats with love to Christ and to a dying world, I know that not only the previous measure of liberality will be attained but a vastly greater one. I say this with fear and trembling. How great is my responsibility! How inexcusable shall it be, if, through my unfaithfulness, my people shall be kept back from doing what they might and ought to do! I came here because I was weighed down with my responsibility. I hoped it would prove a means of grace to my own heart—that I might obtain here that strong and holy impulse that needs nothing else to urge me to the full extent of my ability in my Master's service. And so it has proved."

Reading.

Cultivate a taste for reading; always have a good book at hand to take up in your odd moments. In this way gather up the fragments of time, that nothing be lost—John vi. 12. You may thus read many volumes and acquire much useful knowledge. And thus, too, you may avoid many snares into which others fall and are lost. And beware

of neglecting the Bible. Let not other books exclude this. This is the best of all books. Read it daily; meditate upon it; pray over it; accept its invitations; render obedience to its commands. Know the truth; love the truth; obey the truth; and the truth shall make you free.

Gates of an Eastern City.

Gates are frequently mentioned in the Bible as the most public places of resort—The judges, in ancient times, held their courts at them. This our readers can see by referring to Deut. xvii. 5-8. All of you who can read, and have not already read the story of Absalom's rebellion against his father, the good and pious David, would do well to read it in 2 Samuel, from the 15th to the 18th chapters. At the close of Absalom's wicked rebellion David was waiting at the gate for tidings from the battle-field. A man was stationed on the top of the wall over the gate to watch for messengers, and when he saw one coming he reported to David, who was below. At last when tidings were brought to David that Absalom was slain, the king went up to the chamber over the gate and wept; and as he went he said, "O my son Absalom, my son Absalom! would God that I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

The lips are called the gates of the heart. Be very careful, then, dear children, to guard them well, and let no bad words ever come from them.

The Secret of Happiness.

"Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he." Trusting in God will teach us how to be happy at all times and under all circumstances. This is the great secret of happiness.

Some years ago there was a poor slave in one of the West India Islands who had become a Christian. He had learned well this lesson of trusting in God. The missionary whose church he attended was talking to him one day. "Well, Sambo," said the missionary, "if your driver should lay you down to flog you, what would you do?"

"Me love God, and trust him all de same."

"But if you get no meat to eat, what would you do?"

"Me eat, me tank me Fader; me no eat, me tank me Fader. Me live, me tank me Fader; me die, me tank me Fader!"

What a noble answer that was! How much like Job's saying, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him!" How happy we should be, indeed, if we could learn *thus* to put our trust in God!