

Without Me ye can do nothing.—John xv. 5.

now; the bee has stung mother instead of you; come out and look at it crawling on mother's arm. It cannot hurt you now.'

"Partly out of curiosity, though timidly, I lifted the apron, and put my head out, to see if it really was so. Sure enough, there was the bee crawling still slowly down my mother's arm; and my mother, pointing to the sting higher up, said, 'There it is; it has stung mother instead of you. It cannot sting again; see its sting in mother's arm. It has only one sting!'

"Half afraid and much astonished, as well as not a little sorrowful for my mother, I looked out from under the apron at the sting. For some time I felt awed at the sudden change in my position, and finish up of my troubles. My mother then applied the lesson, explaining to me how it was a picture of what for long she had told me about Jesus having taken my place, and been punished in my stead.

"I had learned and often repeated that verse, 'By His stripes we are healed,' but I never understood it till my mother went on to explain to me, with the bee and the sting before us, that it was just a picture of what Jesus had permitted to be done to Himself—to be punished instead of us, who deserved to be punished; and how, as He had now been punished, we could not be punished. The law having punished Him in our stead, it was powerless now to punish us. And how true the little hymn that says,

'Payment God will not twice demand;
First at my bleeding Surety's hand,
And then again at mine.'

Oh that moment of thought and realisation! It was all so clear now. I saw and understood so clearly what mother had for so long taught me—how that God would not punish me, because He had already punished Jesus in my stead. And I cannot tell you, sir, young as I was, how happy I was in what I saw and heard in those few minutes—how, ever since, from my heart I have thanked Jesus. The assurance that God is satisfied with what Jesus had done for me has never left me. Yes, sir, it was when the bee stung mother I saw it all, and I have rejoiced ever since in believing and being assured that Jesus died for me on Calvary."

The Old Testament contains:—29 chapters (including Psalms), 23,214 verses. The New Testament contains:—26 chapters, 7,959 verses. It has been computed that the total number of words in the Bible amount to about 773,700, and the total number of letters to about 3,565,500.

The Mohammedans have ninety-nine names for God, but among them all they have not "Our Father."

The Husbandry of the Soul.*

By REV. P. B. POWER, M.A.

THE DEPENDENCE OF THE HUSBANDMAN.



HE husbandman, after he has done all that in him lies to do, must depend on another for success. He cannot say: "So and so *must* result from what I have done." If God chose to withhold a blessing, all his work will come to nought.

"Ye looked for much, and lo! it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it" (Hag. i. 9).

In soul-husbandry let us believe this; let us not make absolutely sure that, in the very nature of things, *because* we have made such and such effort, success must certainly ensue. This will be depending on ourselves, and on our own effort, and not on God, and His grace.

If we feel that we *must* wait on another, that very feeling will be our best incentive to our doing so.

Do not think that the realization of dependence will bring you weakness. There is one certain remedy for this: i. e., assurance as to the character of the One you have to depend upon. You can have no comfortable dependence without that; you can have all comfortable restfulness with it. Get rooted into your mind that He has at His command all the elements of success, and has them for you; that He Himself is faithful and true; that He is One with you in the work and the success of the work; that it is His soul you are the husbandman of; that He is looking for a harvest, and knows well that there can be none without His own help; and these thoughts will enable you to trust, and to get out of your own uncertainties, into His certainties, and out of your own weaknesses into His strength.

When operations are not carried on under right conditions, they are sure to go wrong somewhere. It is a comfortable thought for you, that your soul-husbandry is carried on under right conditions. You have gone right up to God Himself. You can go no farther, You may well say: "O Lord, in Thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded." Every temptation, every consciousness of weakness, every possibility of this and that coming upon us, may make us fear ruin at the last, unless we depend for final and certain success upon the One Who is the spiritual as well as the temporal Harvest-God,—the God of the poor husbandman of the soul.

* This article is taken from a New Year's Address, published as a Booklet of 32 pp., price, 6c. May be procured from the Publisher of this paper.