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JOY IN HARVEST.

Man with nature may well rejoice, when God has crowned the year with plenty. Fruitful seasons witness for God, for again the dews and rains have covered the wide earth with the image of his goodness. The exuberance of divine bounty is painted in the golden tints of ripe fruit and grain. Autumn brings round the festival of earth, and Man the recipient of immortal blessings, gathers with shoutings the harvest home. Gratitude right gladly brings an offering of first fruits into the presence of the Lord. Joy in harvest fails to be restrained, since even the little hills rejoice on every side. All our joys, however, should be baptised with religion. Spiritual joy will find a healthy stimulus from looking "through nature up to nature's God." There is indeed an analogy between the joy experienced in harvest, and the joy produced in the soul as a fruit of the Spirit. We read in the Prophet, of those who joy before God, according to the joy in harvest. There are, therefore, a few points of similarity suggested by the season, which we shall attempt to bring out.

The harvest is not gathered without toil on the part of Man. The wandering wind may sow the thistle down; but the hand of the diligent must work before precious seed yields the harvest sheaves of ripened grain. Exertion is demanded in preparing the soil, fencing the ground, sowing the seed, rooting up weeds, and then comes the work of the harvest field. All the preliminary labour enhances the ultimate joy in the good result. What is easily got is little prized. The application of all this to spiritual joy, is clear to the Christian, for idleness never yet cheered the heart of a follower of Him whose meat was to do the will of his Father in Heaven. The wonders of grace fill the soul with joy. Salvation, bought through the blood of Christ, shall prove a perennial fountain of bliss. It is God-given grace, and so are the blessings of harvest marked with the evidence of heavenly origin—for God giveth the increase. Notwithstanding, growth in grace resulting in a fruitful harvest of heavenly joy must imply the diligent and faithful use of the means of grace. Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

Before harvest is realized, patience is brought into action. The farmer does not cast the seed into the ground one day and expect to reap the next. Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone. Children may plant and immediately stir the soil to see the progress of their work and thus spoil it; experience however waits patiently the appointed months. The crop must be mature before it is cut down. It would be an act of folly to put in the sickle while the grain was unripe. Let us not be in undue haste