

have you already. "What hast thou in the house?" More to-morrow begins with an inventory of what we have to-day. The farmer understands that, and with the good sense that distinguishes the agricultural classes proceeds upon it. And when it comes time for him to bestir himself he goes to his granary. There is but little in it; the wheat has mostly been eaten; the winter has been a long and cold one, and the corn he has mostly fed out to his stock. But he is not there to see what he has *not* got, but what he *has* got. "What hast thou?" He looks into the corn-bin; it is nearly empty, but he thrusts his hand down into the yellow solid kernels, and he feels in them the potency of a grand harvest; he sees God in the bin, and long ranks of standing, tasselled corn. And he goes rummaging around among the bags and the baskets, saying to himself all the time, "What hast thou?" "What hast thou?" On each seed-kernel he sees written "a hundred fold," and over the almost empty corn-crib he feels moved to devout thanksgivings, like Jesus, who blessed God over the seven barley cakes at Gennesaret.

So when a friend is sick, stricken down with sudden illness, the very first question we ask is, "What have you got in the house?" As much of the cure will be God's work as of the harvest is God's work. We carry one kernel *into* the field, and God produces ninety-nine *in* the field. So ninety-nine per cent. of cure is God's energy blessing one per cent. of medicine and manipulation. God will be likely to bless if you will give Him something to bless. The first question is on the one vessel of oil. God gave the equivalent of 24,000 loaves when there were seven palpable loaves present for Christ to pray over. And allow me to say, by the way, that I cannot understand what our good faith-cure people mean by praying over nothing. No man shall distance me in admiration for these people. They are good; they are real good. But if Christ wanted as many *loaves* as He could get for the miracle of bread to lean on, and if Elisha wanted as much oil as he could

obtain for the miracle of oil to lean on, and if the Lord of the husbandmen wants as many seed-kernels as are to be had in the spring for the great annual miracle of harvest to germinate from in the autumn, why is it that we shall not similarly use every appliance suggested by skill and experience for the recovery of a sick friend that there may be something large enough for the great miracle of divine *healing* to have room sufficient for its roots to fasten on. We must show at least as much respect for medical methods and appliances as did the dear Lord in the restoration of the blind man. "What hast thou in the house?" No one shall surpass us in ascribing the praise of any cure to God's power and mercy. But man's effort, no matter how feeble, is, nevertheless, the fulcrum over which prayer and faith gain a *leverage* on God's power and mercy. "How many loaves hast thou?" "Tell me, what hast thou in the house?"

And this principle will serve us a good turn in all the higher relations of life. When a young man stands facing the years that lie along in front of him, it is a pretty serious question with him whether he is going to succeed or not; and it best be understood by him at the outset, that what God makes a boy by nature, stands in a certain fixed relation to what the boy will be competent to make of himself by acquisition; so that the old question of Elisha comes back to him: "What hast thou in the house?" A walnut, by no amount of straining, can become an oak, nor a fig tree, by any kind of pruning, be taught to yield grapes. My young friend, there is no doubt that you are good for something, but the key to success is lodged somewhere in you. You will fail if you work at cross-purposes with your aptitudes. Your Creator meant something in making you, and the initial matter is to get *at* His meaning. Men are constantly proving failures, for the reason that they are trying to do what, humanly speaking, God never intended they should. We fall out of our orbits. It was rather a shrewd reply made by a gentleman who