

Ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.—1 Cor. iii. 9.

throne of His mercy and grace. We have full access and free entrance into the very presence of our God and Father, through the blood-washed way, and our High Priest ever bids us "draw near," not stand off.

The Husbandry of the Soul.*

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

No. 2.—THE WORK OF THE HUSBANDMAN.



IT is well to start with exalted ideas of the worth in all ways of soul-husbandry, for it will make demands upon us which we must meet bravely and patiently; and we must feel that there is a "worth while" for it all. Husbandry is a work of thought. There are many things to be considered in husbandry of

the earth. The earth has its secrets as well as its settled ways; the seeds have their varieties, and their adaptability to soils, and aspects, and times of planting, and succession. Where there has not been success, there must be thought how to succeed; and where there has been success, it may be that, thinking will find out how there may be still more.

The noblest occupations are those which have the most thought in them. Think—think—and God will give to your thought knowledge; knowledge of what is wanted, and how the want is to be supplied; and how you can improve; and where you failed; and why you failed; and how you can escape failing any more; and what you may do, and how you may do it.

Thought—real thought—is work; and in all labour there is profit. God will bless you in the husbandry of your soul, if you will really think.

THE WORK OF THE HUSBANDMAN IS ONE OF VARIETY.

And there is abundant variety in the husbandry of the soul. You have thoughts, and hopes, and fears, to attend to. You have seeds to sow, and weeds to pull up, and trees and shrubs to prune; there are virtues which you have carefully to cultivate, vices which you have energetically to extirpate; wild out-growths of undisciplined character which you have to check—your mind, your affections, your efforts, your likes and dislikes; there is something to be done as

regards every one of them. They do not so naturally tend to a heavenly harvest that they will fruit without the cultivation of patience, thought, and skill.

All-round cultivation, soul symmetry, every little field of the soul-farm cropped and tended,—this is what we must aim at.

And then, *this is a work of experience.* Experience is as precious in the soul as in the field; and nothing can take its place. You may depend on it, experience enters into the law of the spiritual as well as the natural life; and many mistakes are made simply from want of it, and not from any evil intent. Experience does not come at once; nor does the experience which produces success in one thing, secure it in another. The husbandman who has become able to produce great crops of wheat by experience, may entirely fail, when he goes to grow something which is quite new; but by and by he will succeed in that too.

"Thank You," and "Please."

I WENT to a little mission chapel in New York, and the speakers, of whom there were many, were allowed only a minute each. One woman said in that minute what thrilled me through and through: "The love of Jesus has made myself and my husband mannerly. We used to swear at one another, and now we say, 'Thank ye,' and 'Please.'" I tell you, the preaching of infidelity and of all the scientists cannot produce an effect like that in one hundred years, nor yet in five hundred years.

—John B. Gough.

GEMS RE-SET.

WARNING, invitation, and promise come from the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

NEVER give way to temper. Loss of temper is a sad time-waster, paralyzing both our own efforts and the exertions of those around us.

Now is a little word it is well to keep in full practice. Never leave until the next hour, much less until to-morrow, what you can well do now.

"The word is past, thou canst not it recall;
Time is thou hast, improve the portion small;
Time future is not, and may never be;
Time present is the only time for thee!"

IN the detail, as well as in the greater concerns of life, LOOK UP, dear Christian! The never-failing promise is yours: "My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

* 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.