

Desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby -2 Pe. ii. 2.

It was in the Rectory at Lutterworth that the great work of translating the Bible was performed. Wycliffe was appointed Rector in April, 1374, and he still held the office at the time of his death. Thirty years after his decease, by decree of the Council of Constance, his grave was opened, and his remains removed. These were burnt, and the ashes cast into the adjoining brook named the "Swift;" and Fuller, describing the scene, quaintly but truly says, "This brook conveyed them into Avon, the Avon into the Severn, the Severn into the narrow seas, they into the main ocean; and thus the ashes of Wycliffe were the emblems of his doctrine, which is now dispersed all the world over."

Fruitful.

Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year a hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him.

Genesis xxvi. 12.

CHRISTIAN, may harvests as speedy be thine,
Sunshine and shower as sweetly combine;
That thou in the fair fields open to thee,
Like him, mayest sower and gatherer be:
Scattering broadcast thy seed, far and near,
For a hundredfold reaping in this "the same year."

—WM. HUFF.

Items of Interest.

It is stated that Minnesota has added 800 Sunday Schools to her list since 1879, and that the missionaries of the Sunday School Union have established 600 schools in the State in that time.

One hundred and eighty-four churches developed from Sunday Schools planted and fostered by the American Sunday School Union, last year; and in one hundred and fifty other places the schools resulted in securing preaching, occasionally or steadily.

Some idea of the large field occupied by evangelizing agencies in New York City may be gathered from the following words of a correspondent: "There are 118 evangelical missions where Sunday schools and Gospel meetings are carried on; of these, 45 are housed in church buildings, with a ministry and the Christian ordinances; 54 of them are strictly denominational, and 11 are union or undenominational. Some of the missions have lately gone into buildings in no wise inferior to the best houses of the regular churches.

The Husbandry of the Soul.*

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

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HUSBANDMAN.



THE soul of man may be likened to a piece of ground with great productive capacity. It may bring forth abundantly good or evil. Its juices may go into flower, or weed; into a poison-berry, or a luscious fruit. It is full of force which must act in some direction; and therein lies at

once the husbandman's power and peril—his power of getting a crop; his peril of being overrun with weeds.

Now, what I want you first to think about is, your responsibility as the husbandman of your own soul. It is not a hard responsibility—do not think that; for that will make all your soul-culture hard. You would then probably be saying of God, "I knew Thee that Thou wert hard." It is a tender one. God and you have the one interest. Your culture of the soul is for yourself and Him. You and He are one in your life-toil. We are "fellow-workers with God."

Every man must be husbandman to his own soul, and to his own self. He is put into this garden to till it, and to dress it. We cannot let out parts to others; we cannot get others to farm any part of our estate for us: the great Proprietor has given each his work to do "according to his several ability."

Remember, you can never get rid of your relationship to a Lord. The fee-simple of yourself will never pass to you. Those who said, "We will not have this man to reign over us," were obliged to succumb to Him, whether they liked it or not. But we would not speak for a moment of compulsion; we would hardly even hint at it: in this husbandry, God and man are so at one, that the drudgery and slavery of compulsion have no place. All that is for God is for ourselves; all that is for ourselves is for God. The soul, which with its harvest He wants, is precious to Him and to us,—it is *our* soul. It is our great trust. Let us be good to ourselves—good in the best of ways—good in God's way; for a great and certain harvest is awaiting the faithful husbandry 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.