

6TH CHAPTER OF ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS,
9TH VERSE.

"Let us not be weary in well doing : for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

He who should for the first time have visited this land when the earth was buried in snow, and all was sere and desolate, might have deemed it a something strange and well nigh marvellous, that the husbandman should hope to win from such a land, so abundant fruits of increase.

Taught by experience, we know that the rigours of climate are but for a season ; that the covering spread over the face of nature is its ornament and defence, and for a pledge of greater fertility : that, yet a little while, and the earth shall renew its strength, and put forth "first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear." So the Christian, who shall but judge from present appearances, may see little in the moral aspect of the world which can be other than cause for discouragement. Like the prophet in the valley of vision, he may be sorely tempted to ask, how things so very dry can be yet instinct with life ; but let faith stand him in the stead of experience, that faith which can look beyond the veil, and he shall taste even now of rich fruition, in the certainty of the Divine Promises ; shall discern of a truth, that He who ordereth all things in heaven and on earth will carry out His own purposes of mercy, and fulfil all those His gracious designs, which are yea in Christ, and in him Amen, to the glory of God the Father !

Let us then, in dependence upon the blessing from above, consider the incentive to a patient continuance in well doing which is proposed in the passage before us : "In due season we shall reap, if we faint not." In due season. It is of the first importance that we learn to tarry the Lord's leisure. The sower when he has committed his seed to the ground, remains for a while uncheered by any token for good, that his work has been successful. Nothing appears on the surface to distinguish the soil from what it was, or ever it received the precious deposit ; yet he is not on that account solicited by fears or misgivings. He knew beforehand that thus it would be, according to the order prescribed in the natural process of vegetation. He looks not for the shoot of promise 'till a certain time shall have elapsed, an interval to be meted out by nice computation. But faith, we may admit, comes short of