



NEVER STOP THE PLOUGH TO  
CATCH A MOUSE.

**T**HERE'S not much profit in this game. Think of a man and a boy and four horses all standing still for the sake of a mouse!

Heaps of people act like the man in our picture. They have a great work in hand which wants all their wits, and they leave it to squabble over some petty nothing, not worth a fig.

Now, our minister said to me the other day, "John, if you were on the committees of some of our societies you would see this mouse-hunting done to perfection. Not only committees, but whole bodies of Christian people, go mouse-hunting."

"A society of good Christian people will split into pieces over a petty quarrel, or mere matter of opinion, while all around them the masses are perishing for want of the Gospel. A miserable little mouse, which no cat would ever hunt, takes them off from their Lord's work. Again, intelligent men will spend months of time and heaps of money in inventing and publishing mere speculations, while the great field of the world lies unploughed. They seem to care nothing how many may perish so long as they can ride their hobbies. In other matters a little common-sense is allowed to rule, but in the weightiest matters foolishness is sadly conspicuous. As for you and me, John, let us kill a

mouse when it nibbles our bread, but let us not spend our lives over it. What can be done by a mousetrap or a cat should not occupy all our thoughts.

The paltry trifles of this world are much of the same sort. Let us give our chief attention to the chief things—the glory of God, the winning of souls for Jesus, and our own salvation. There are fools enough in the world, and there can be no need that Christian men should swell the number. Go on with your ploughing, John, and I will go on with my preaching, and in due season we shall reap if we faint not."—*John Ploughman's Talk.*

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

**G**OD deals with us singly, and we must deal with God singly. We have little concern with what others do, but everything with what we do ourselves. Let us strive to live, and think, and speak, and act, as if we and God were alone, and as if the whole weight and responsibility of His work upon earth lay upon us, as it does to the full extent of our power to bear it. We are not only responsible for our own souls, but for the souls of others. How different a state the world would be in if every active member of all the associations had his heart on fire with *divine love*, and, like the Christians of Apostolic days, told the old, old story *continually*. Not only in public to many, but to one by one, in the frank, candid, spontaneous, unaffected speech with which one who loves Christ may tell another of the beauty of his Master. If each member were so to act, what an enormous power would be set to work! What a blessing might be expected from above, if every man did what he might do for Christ! God puts in our power to do all that He means for us to do. He has not given us time, talent, money, position, influence to be thrown away. We only need the zeal, the heaven-given fire of the Spirit; the all-constraining, all-subduing love of Christ.—*From Monthly Notes.*

REDEEMING THE TIME.

Eph. v. 16.