

The Upward Look

Lessons of Life from Weeds

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Farmers are quite familiar with weed life. They have learned from experience to look for certain weeds in meadows, others in grain crops, others in gardens, and some along the roadsides. They have also learned that some are short lived lasting only a year; we call them annuals. If allowed to go to seed they usually produce a lot of it. There is another class that takes two years to complete their life history such as the bindweed, we call them biennials. If checked in the production of seeds they will try again. Then there are those which grow from the root and last from year to year until dug completely out or something is applied at the roots to kill them. In this class are field bindweed or wild morning glory. We call them perennials. If they are interfered with in producing seeds they will try again and again, and if they don't accomplish their object in life, the roots are still there and ready to start up another year and have another try.

How much like the soil of the farm is the human heart, and how much like the farm weeds is the evil that gets into our hearts and crowds out or smothers the good seeds which are planted there. Like the soil of the farm

the human heart, using the term in the sense of the centre of life, as in Christ's parable of the soil, may have its wayside, shallow, weedy, or good clean ground. One Bible writer speaking of the human heart in its natural unregenerated state, says "It is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked," and in another place he says "it is to be kept with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life."

If the farmer would successfully till his soil and kill or keep in subjection all the weed life growing therein, he must become familiar with the nature and the habits of growth of those weeds with which he has to deal. Is it any less reasonable, that a man wishing to keep evil out of his nature, must make a study of not only his own heart as in the language of an old Greek philosopher "know thyself" but he must learn to recognize the evil that suggests itself to him in so many forms? The good Look tells us in the parable of the tares and the wheat that the enemy who sowed the tares was the devil, the father of lies, and the sower of evil. He sometimes comes to us as an angel of light. We must learn to recognize his allurements and prevent the seed thought of sin getting a start in the heart soil. The Bible is the great source for giving us this light and every farmer should become a member of the Pocket Testament League whose pledge is to carry a portion of the Word with us all the time, and read at least one

chapter a day which is a very easy thing to do, if we will only make up our minds to do it. It is rather astonishing how many young men refuse to do it these days even when asked. It was refreshing to note in the writer's experience recently, the case of a lady who had gone out from a village in Eastern Ontario early in the morning to pick berries. As she was returning home she was asked to have a ride. The conversation drew from her the fact that in her haste to get to the berry patch she had not stopped to read a portion of the word, but she had brought in her pail with her some loose leaves from her Bible to read in the berry patch. If everyone were as careful and seemed to enjoy her religion all the day and week long—to search the scriptures—there would be more heirs to Eternal Life: As someone has remarked, "Reading the Bible will keep you from sin, but sin will keep you from reading the Bible."

Like the weed, evil is most easily dealt with when it first starts. While young and tender it is easily killed. Let sin once get going and its roots strike deeper and deeper until instead of being an annual it becomes a perennial and fills the whole heart soil.

Take the boy who is forming habits. He is tempted to try the cigarette. He knows his parents are opposed to it. He has learned that it is injurious to his system, yet he persists because the company that goes with the smoker. He smokes, too, because

he sees so many men smoking that it can't do him so very much harm and so he persists until he has got the habit and isn't ashamed of it. The cigar and the pipe follow in rapid succession and soon he becomes a slave to a plug of tobacco, from which he perchance would gladly free himself in later years but cannot even when he may realize it is a great injury to himself.

This is the experience of hundreds of men who try in their own strength to break with habits that are enslaving them. So it is with evil habits of all kinds. Before it becomes a habit it might be overcome. It is the continual doing of a thing over and over again that makes it the habit.

The best antidote to bad habits is to form good ones. Evil is crowded out when we entertain the good, and there is One who can help us to overcome. The roots of perennial sins must be pulled out or destroyed or they will continually give us trouble in our lives by coming on again and again just as they do in the soil.

The self surrendered life to Christ is the only overcoming life. Let us give it a fair trial.

I think a lot of Farm and Dairy. It is about the best paper I have ever read. A fine feature of it is that it is so encouraging for young men. In it they can find out what others have done and how well they got along with little or nothing to start with.—F. J. Cook, Essex Co., Ont.



May be the dough had forgotten to rise.

Or had risen quickly overnight and fallen again—

To rise nevermore.

Twice weak flour, of course.

Meaning weak in gluten.

But FIVE ROSES is strong, unusually strong.

With that glutinous strength which compels it to rise to your surprised delight.

Stays risen too.

Being coherent, elastic.

And the dough feels springy under your hand.

Squeaks and cracks as you work it.

Feel the feel of a FIVE ROSES dough.

Note the wonderful smooth texture—soft—velvety.

Great is the bread born of such dough—

Your dough!

Try this good flour.

Five Roses Flour

Not Bleached



Not Blended