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'What Will the Harvest Be?'

One parable Jesus told the people was of a sower who went out to sow seed. And as he cast the seeds about some of them fell by the wayside; and the birds came and ate them up; some fell on stony places where they had not much earth to grow in, and they sprang up fast, because they were not deep in the ground; but when the sun came out, it burned them up quite dry, for they had no root; and some fell among

the Wicked Spirit then made them forget all they had heard. That which fell on stony places and had no depth of earth, meant those who at first are glad to hear of God's love, and seem as if they would be His children; but their goodness has 'no root,' and so a little trouble makes them give up trying. We must all ask God to keep us Christ's children. The seed that fell among thorns meant that sometimes when men have been taught about God, they let the love of money and the cares of life and its pleasures fill their minds so that

hardly time to eat or sleep. One day He was very tired and the sun had set, so He said to His disciples, 'Let us cross to the other side.' Then they sent away the crowd of people and took Jesus in the ship, and put out to sea, and there were with them many other little ships.—'The Life of our Lord.'

The Chopped Bible.

A few years ago a Bible-distributor, while passing through a village in Western Massachusetts, was told of a family in whose home there was not even the cheapest copy of the Scriptures, so intense was the hostility of the husband to Christianity. The distributor started at once to visit the family, and found the wife hanging out the week's washing. In the course of a pleasant conversation he offered her a neat-bound Bible. With a smile which said 'Thank you,' she held out her hand, but instantly withdrew it. She hesitated to accept the gift, knowing that her husband would be displeased if she took it. A few pleasant words followed, in which the visitor spoke of man's need of divine direction and of the divine adaptation of the Bible to that need, and the woman resolved to take the gift. Just then the husband came from behind the house with an axe on his shoulder. Seeing the Bible in his wife's hand he looked threateningly at her, and then said to the distributor:

'What do you want, sir, of my wife?'

The frank words of the Christian man, spoken in a manly way, so softened his irritation that he replied to him with civility; but, stepping up to his wife, he took the Bible from her hand, saying:

'We've always had everything in common, and we'll have this, too.'

Placing the Bible on the chopping-block, he chopped it in two parts with one blow of the axe. Giving one part to his wife and putting the other in his pocket, he walked away. Several days after this division of the Bible he was in the forest chopping wood. At noon he seated himself on a log and began to eat his dinner. The dissevered Bible suggested itself. He took it from his pocket, and his eyes fell on the last page. He began reading, and soon was deeply interested in the story of the prodigal son, but his passion ended with the son's exclamation: 'I will arise and go to my father.' At night he said to his wife, with affected carelessness:

'Let me have your part of the Bible. I've been reading about a boy who ran away from home, and after having a hard time decided to go back. There my part of the book ends, and I want to know if he got back and how the old man received him.'

The wife's heart beat violently, but she mastered her joy, and quietly handed her husband her part without a word. He read the story through, and then re-read it. He read on far into the night, but not a word did he say to his wife. During the leisure moments of the next day his wife saw him



THE SOWER.

thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them—that is, did not leave them room to grow. But some fell on good ground, and grew up and brought forth much fruit.

The Apostles did not quite know what hidden meaning there was in this Parable, so Jesus told them.

The seed meant the Word of God; the sower, a servant of God who had to teach the Word. The seed that fell by the wayside meant that the words had not been cared for by those who heard them, and

they have no time or thought to give to God, or to read and pray. Those seeds that fell on good ground meant the children or men who listen to God's Word, and read it, and pray to Him for help, and try to obey it. These grow better and better, and God will love and help them.

Our Lord was often very tired when He had been making sick people well and teaching them by these lovely stories; and then He would go up a mountain alone and pray to His Father in Heaven, or cross the sea to some other place, for He had