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Editorial.

ACROSS IT AND ACROSS IT!

No matter how earnestly a man strives in the great contest for eternity, "yet is he not crowned," Paul says, "unless he strives lawfully"—unless he strives, for this is the meaning of the word "*according to the rules of the contest*." Men in these Grecian games, (for the illustration is taken from this custom) must study the rules laid down for the combatants, and guide themselves accordingly, or else all their sweat shall end in failure and disappointment.

The word of God tells the Christian very fully and very clearly the rules of the contest as regards *salvation* work, as old writers call it, *i. e.*, the work of securing one's own salvation. One must "strive (agonize) to enter the strait gate." One must work out his salvation by fear and trembling." One must "stand fast in the faith." One must watch and pray." One must *consider* and constantly "*look* to Jesus." These are the rules of the contest as to the individual person.

The same infallible word is equally full and clear as to the rules of the contest when the work is no longer *salvation* work, but as the same old writers word it, *generation* work, *i. e.*, the work of seeking the conversion of sinners and the edification of believers. This *generation* work has its rules

according to which the contest must go on, or else we cannot count on success. We do not wait here to specify these rules, (such as "Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves," "Be instant in season and out of season,") but hasten on to the Golden Rule for all Christian work. "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due time ye shall reap if ye faint not."

Christian work is often in the Scriptures compared to the work of the husbandman or farmer. "A sower went forth to sow." "Paul may plant." Viewing therefore the contest with sin and ignorance in the light of the contest the farmer has to wage with the natural stubbornness of the soil we see lying before us, not so much spasmodic effort, but rough toil, and persevering, plodding patient effort, "across the field with the plough and across it" as Spurgeon said lately at a ragged school meeting in London. These are his words:—

"I think a great deal less than I did of great meetings. They excite; but I don't think much comes of it. If this London of ours is to be blessed, it must be by hard work. I believe if London is to be ploughed, it can only be done by taking the plough across it, across it, and across it. Sterling hard work is necessary; and so far from the Church's organizations