

its bloom and soundness : nor can he give life to the seed whose hidden principle of vegetation has been by any means destroyed. He may go *with* nature, but he cannot go without her. It is his privilege to accompany nature—to work with her—nay, more, to contribute to the triumphal display of nature's excellences ; but still he is but nature's assistant, and he may not arrogate to himself all the honor of her productions.

It is not *his* hand that causes the seed beneath the soil to sprout—not his the power that fills the swelling ear with precious food, nor is it human art that ripens the waving fields of corn. One may plant and another may water, “ but it is God that giveth the increase.” Man casts his seed upon the earth, where, fit emblem of his own committal to the dust and resurrection unto life, in the bare grain which he has sown “ he soweth not that body that shall be, but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.”

Thus to the devout and right-minded tiller of the soil, nature is but another name for nature's God, and he acknowledges *His* work in the growth and maturity of the herbs of the field and of the tree yielding fruit after his kind, and in the increase of his flocks and herds. Every year brings to him the renewal of God's gifts ; and in the culture of his fields he witnesses the reality of those holy and heart-moving words with which the worship of the sanctuary has familiarized his lips. “ Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it, thou makest it very plenteous. The river of God is full of water : thou preparest their corn, for so thou providest for the earth. Thou waterest her furrows : thou sendest rain into the little valleys thereof : thou makest it soft with the drops of rain, and blessest the increase of it. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy clouds drop fatness. They shall drop upon the dwellings of the wilderness and the little hills rejoice on every side. The fields shall be full of sheep ; the valleys also shall stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing.”