

to retard rather than accelerate the happy day when "swords shall be beaten into plow-shares and spears into pruning hooks." Because Whittier was in advance of his times in all moral reforms we do not wish to infer that Tennyson, in this matter, was behind his generation. If we can praise and revere Whittier for the Christlikeness in his living, no one can seriously blame Tennyson for the worldlikeness in his.

In conclusion, if we were driven to bay by the question, "Which of the two were the greater?" we would say that Tennyson was the greater poet and artist; Whittier the greater writer and man.

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SOWING THE SEED.

An Essay read before a Young People's Meeting.

One of the most common comparisons in the Bible is that of sowing the seed. Several of the prophets have used this figure, and Jesus has given us several beautiful parables containing the same idea.

Let us see what is meant by sowing the seed. Every word and every deed of ours has some effect on those around us. It may appear to pass unnoticed, but yet it has some effect on ourselves, and on others, for either good or evil. Our words and actions, then, are the seed, and the effect they produce is the plant that grows from it and produces fruit. It behooves us, then, to be careful what we say and do, for we are told "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Some other lines, containing somewhat the same idea, come to my mind:

"Boys, flying kites, pull in their white-winged birds;

You can't do that with words.

A thought, unspoken, may fall back dead,
But God, himself, can't kill it when it's said."

We shall next speak more particularly of sowing good seed, that is, speaking words or doing deeds with

the intention of producing a good result. Let us not neglect to sow the seeds because of the apparently barren or evil nature of the soil, for we are told, "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." And in Jesus' parable of the sower we learn that some seed was devoured by the fowls of the air; some was scorched by the hot sun, and some was choked by the thorns, and yet that which fell on good ground brought forth some an hundred-fold, some sixty-fold, and some thirty fold. Let us not be discouraged by the apparently barren nature of the soil. It was while on the desert road between Jerusalem and Gaza that Philip sowed the seed in the heart of the Ethiopian eunuch, that sprang up and grew till it became the Abyssinian church. The prophet Isaiah speaks in the same strain, "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass."

Again, let us not hesitate to sow because our seed seems so small, because there seems so little for us to say or do. For Jesus, in a beautiful parable, says:—"The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; which, indeed, is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." Let us remember, also, that Jesus blessed even the cup of cold water given in His name.

And finally, let none of us despair because we have spent so much of our life in gratifying our own desires and lusts, but let us turn and serve the Lord, who has promised that if we serve Him the wasted time shall be made good. His prophet tells us so in that beautiful figure, "I will restore the years that the locust hath eaten."

Therefore, friends, let us strive,