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Sowing the Seed.

I believe there is nothing so much like seed as our words. How easily and lightly they float out of our lips, something like thistle-down which floats about when there's a little breeze, and yet every bit of thistle-down contains a seed, and each seed settles down somewhere, and causes a trouble-some, prickly thistle to grow up. The farmer finds that out to his cost, for thistles are remarkably tiresome things, and it isn't at all an easy matter to root them up.

Now, words are always said in the hearing of some one, aren't they? And a great many of our words are not only heard, but they go straight into somebody's heart, and have an effect on that somebody's life a long time afterwards.

When Mrs. Beecher Stowe was writing "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Mr. Jewett, who was to publish it in book form after its appearance by weekly instalments in the *National Era*, sent her a message imploring her not to make it too long, as the subject was an unpopular one. Mrs. Stowe replied that she did not make the story, that the story made itself, and that she could not stop till it was done. This feeling increased in intensity to the end; and a friend of Mrs. Stowe's says that she had been heard to say in these last days of her life, "God wrote it. I merely did His dictation." The story has been translated into thirty-six languages; within the first year of its publication millions of copies were sold; and no work of fiction in any age ever attained so universal, immediate and extensive a popularity.

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