

The Forgotten Seed.

In autumn it is delightful to find the expected in your garden—the rich bloom of nasturtium or zinnia or dahlia. "I worked for it," you say. "I had a right to look for it, and here it is, and how much I enjoy it!"

It is especially delightful, though, to find the unexpected, to find some blossom waving a sword of flame or lifting a crown of gold. How came it there, when planted, how developed, you wonder. Under some canopy of green this king with a crown of gold was hidden till now. In some scabbard of emerald this flaming sword was concealed.

You have forgotten all about the chance dropping of a seed; but when did nature ever forget? Nature has its laws, and it goes on and on with unceasing perseverance. This is one of the delightful rewards of seed-sowing and plant-culture—to see nature throwing back the door of some great mystery and revealing a sudden joy of harvest.

It shall be one of the harvest joys that you, a worker, a tiller in the King's garden, shall have. Yours will be not only the joy that is expected, but you shall have the fruition of the unexpected.

Some one will come to you and say, amid the distant years, "Do you remember long ago that you wanted me to be a Christian, and you said, 'Serve God now?'"

Some one else will come and ask, "Do you remember when I was in sorrow, and you said, 'Lay it all on Jesus?'"

Then a young man years ago was going from home, and you said, "Don't touch any thing that intoxicates!" So he asserts, and that in the hot fires of temptation these words of influence you wove about him were a complete protection. Do you remember? No, no! All memory of these events is gone, utterly gone. But God, like nature—his creature—never forgets. Those distant influences going out from you were the seeds his own loving thought watched over, his own great care brought to completeness, and here is the result. Yours is the joy of the harvesting of the unexpected in time and in eternity.

To the Teacher.

Thou must be true thyself,
If thou the truth wouldst teach;
Thy soul must overflow, if thou
Another soul wouldst reach;
It needs the overflow of heart
To give the lips true speech.

Think truly, and thy thoughts
Shall the world's famine feed;
Speak truly, and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed;
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble deed.

Opening and Closing Services.

FIRST QUARTER.

OPENING SERVICE.

I. Silence.

II. Responsive Service.

Supt. I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.

School. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Supt. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together:

School. Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

Supt. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

School. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee.

Supt. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

School. For my brethren and companions' sake, I will now say, I peace be within thee.

Supt. Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

III. Singing.

IV. Prayer.

LESSON SERVICE.

I. Class Study of the Lesson.

II. Singing Lesson Hymn.

III. Recitation of Title, Golden Text, Outline, and Doctrinal Suggestion by the school in concert.

IV. Review and Application of the Lesson, by Pastor or Superintendent.

V. The Supplemental Lesson.

VI. Announcements (especially of the Church service, and week-evening prayer-meeting).

CLOSING SERVICE.

I. Singing.

II. Responsive Sentences.

Supt. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

School. How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Supt. For him, and through him, and to him, are all things.

School. To him be glory forever. Amen.

III. Dismissal.