

Sunday Reading.

At the Door.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." At what door? The barred door of your heart, follow-somer; your heart, defiled, darkened, perverted, hardened, alienated from God and holiness, greatly needing the entrance of some one who can change all this, restore it to God, and make it an abode of purity, love, and peace.

Who stands there? Your best friend. He who has done for you already what no other being could or would; who has made possible the change you need, and now presses urgently upon your acceptance of the provided mercy.

How does he knock? Reason asserts your true condition, year deep necessity for such a Saviour. Conscience thunders its condemnation of your guilt. Memory peoples the past with accusing witnesses. Apprehension looks forward to dreaded, deserved ills that the future has in store.

He has knocked long. By his word, pressed upon you in early childhood by Christian parents, friends, teachers, pastors, or in later life, prodded in the solitude of your closet. By his providence, preserving life and health, or sending sickness; supplying every want, directing all your ways, protecting from danger, giving friends and removing them, in each case for your good. By his Spirit, awakening, convicting, reproving, melting, leading others to repentance, pardon, and peace; convincing you that you have only to accept the proffered mercy to be blessed.

Why does he knock? Because of his love for your soul. He would save it. You have shut and barred him out, and persevered in excluding him. He even begs to be admitted. He will hardly be denied. He has done and suffered so much to make salvation possible for you, that he cannot bear to have you persist in refusing to be saved.

But he will not always knock.

"There is a time, we know not when,

A period, we know not whence,

The tackle of destiny is now,

Emergency is over it,"

Then is the final hour."

though we had never known and could not foresee before they have time to season, learn that the impoverishing and embittering of this, may be turned to the enriching and sweetening of that; as though we would prefer the shadows and hints of any good, if we might rest in them, to the brightness and completion of every other, if they are to be waited for; as though grown up and just ready to enter upon our inheritance, we had taken ourselves again to childhood, and our little crosses were as the bursting of our hearts, and our minutes were as years of waiting for the promised blessing. O, if we could look at our worldly state through the eyes of faith, if we would consider our life so short it is, a vapor which the sun sooner rises on, than it is exhaled, a breath of our being as contrasted with its duration, we should be struck with the littleness of what we lose or gain, and the tide of grief would be staid. Our wonder would be, not that we suffer so much, but that we have anything to enjoy; not that we fail to acquire great things, but that we are thought of at all; and thus weighing things in the balance of the sanctuary, thus coming to ourselves, we should remember we have a home to go to, and a welcome inheritance there. We should be ready to exclaim,

"This is the dwelling of man, Our boasted majesty, to know ourselves Parts and proportions of one wondrous whole."

Closing to wonder that our thoughts, and desires are not gratified, that we are not singled out yet set above the many, our little comforts would swell into treasures, the little spot of land we hedge around, would be as a father's garden, bearing the ripest fruits, and scented with the fragrance of the sweetest flowers, and we should feel as if invited by his voice to inherit all things. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Their love shall be as the gathering of its best fruits, yes, the feeding of others upon them shall be as their own sweet partaking to the full, and at the harvesting, their garners shall be filled, "good measure, pressed down, and running over, shall God give into their bosoms."

—Hoover.

Agricultural.



SEEDING CORN.

The following, by Jesse Gersagh, in the Farm Journal, is worthy of attention at the present time.

Much corn planted last spring failed to germinate in consequence of the carelessness manner in which the seed had been prepared, and lost a similar late season should again prevent a second planting, we would recommend more care in the matter.

Send Corn. There are but few farmers who fairly take into consideration the extent to which their crops are affected by the quality of the seed. "Like logests like," as we say so we reap" are old aphorisms, pointing of both sound and practical philosophy.

If we sow imperfect seed we may reasonably expect to reap imperfection, though with a decrease in quality in a proportionate from perfect organic defect, whilst if we sow good seed we may expect to reap the same with an increase in quality in the same ratio as the deterioration of the former.

In order to secure good seed corn and improve the quality, quantity and time of ripening try the following: when your corn is ripening go through the field, and pluck from the stalk such ears as are the earliest being already ripe, having in view those bearing the largest and most ears to the stalk. Having furnished yourself with a sufficient quantity for the sowing place it is dry situation that the ears may become perfectly dry, as that will keep it from freezing in the winter, which of a certainty, if allowed to do, will destroy its power of germinating. Hence the ill success of many who do not take this into consideration. For field cultivation, the rows should be three feet apart, so as to admit working easily with the cultivator among the rows. The plants, when finally thinned out, should stand nearer each other than six inches in the row. It can be pulled and secured in the fall the same as turnips.

The best variety is the White Silesian, though the French Yellow has been so much improved lately, we are informed it has become nearly as good as the former. We have never found it to keep so well.

The beet requires about four pounds of seed to the acre, and can be planted very rapidly in drills with a seed-sower, costing about eight dollars.—American Agriculturist.

SOMETHING FOR FARMERS.

Mr John J. Hollow, of Fredericksburg, has invented a machine which will haul and shell corn at one operation, thereby dispensing with the laborious method usually resorted to for devesting the ear of its covering.

The editor of the Herald states that he witnessed the operation a few days since on corn that had just been brought from the field, and from the success attending to exhibition he is satisfied that the machine is capable of performing in a satisfactory manner the husking and shelling of corn at a single operation. The ear with the husk is thrown in its spacious mouth, and in the twinkling of an eye the non-tender grinders of the machine strip off the husk, the corn falling at one point and the clean cob coming out at the other end. The principle of the machine has been heretofore in use in shell-dens, and its capacity is about four hundred barrels per day.

WHEN SHOULD TIMBER BE CUT?

What the proper season is for cutting timber to insure its greatest durability, is a question of considerable importance to the farmer, in a country where it is an object to save timber and avoid unnecessary labor, as it makes a great difference in the profits of a farmer if his fence have to be renewed in five years, when, by cutting his timber in a proper season, they would last ten.

The time settled on by tradition appears to be the month of February. Perhaps the reason is, the winter is the most convenient season for doing such work, there being more leisure time then than in summer; and because it has been generally done at that time, it is supposed to be the right one. But if any one will be at the trouble of cutting a tree in the winter or spring, and one in June or July, and making them into rails, and see which will last the longest, he will not need any other argument to convince him that tradition is at fault in this case at least.

Perhaps the case may be different with some kinds of timber; but hickory, ash, basswood, beech and maple, and some other kinds, cut in the winter, when the bark is tight to the wood, and the sap in the

tree has been placed in its banks for collection. All persons interested in these questions should be solicitous immediately.

JOAB P. SMITH.

September 26, 1854. 334

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