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1873 November-December

SIDE TWO

family – a lovely one – of four children, have recently moved to Iowa, where she has many relatives. Israel is a business agent in New York city for Ames' brush business; – he resides in Brooklyn; an energetic man of business. Joshua is dead. William is connected with "Childrens Home" in Cincinnatti, also is a literary writer. Phebe, now Levering, the mother of a large family, resides in Morrow Co.; and Susan, now Benedict, in Mahoning Co. Ohio.

In thy letter thou expresses the sentiment "that we have often to realize that we cannot control the results of labor however diligent in its application or intelligent in its design". This is very true. We have often a realization that we have not controlled the results of labor. yet much observation has taught me that it is difficult to assign a limit to the degree in which, by the use of the faculties which God has given us, we can control the results of labor, under adverse circumstances. I will give one case in illustration: – I could give many.

Many years ago, when Wheat growing was an absorbing part of agricultural labor in Northern Ohio, there were large breadths of level clay land, in townships south of us, excellent for wheat, with one important drawback. In some seasons, from the texture of the soil, and the want of natural drainage, and also because of the manner of the change from winter to established spring weather, these lands were liable to spring killing (i.e. winter killing) or heaving out. I have, in some seasons, on these lands, in the spring, witnessed a wide scene of desolation The wheat plants lying dead on the surface of the ground. But, one farmer, always had a field of excellent good wheat. An oasis in the desert. A triumph of genius. He had controlled the results of his labor under very adverse circumstances. The secret of his success was this: He always selected for his wheat field an old timothy sward, and prepared his soil so that the sward should be dead, but not entirely rotten, in the time of trouble. The texture of the stiff clay was for the time being changed, and heaving out averted. Genius in agriculture unlike Genius in letters, may be imitated, by the dull, with success. The example of this man taught some of his neighbors that – on a limited scale – they too might raise wheat, with certainty, in adverse seasons. Of course so good a manager would be attentive to other elements of success.

I have sometimes thought that God, by the providence of accident, has taught us not to imitate the whipped spaniel, but in calamity to use his given mind, and energies, to avert that calamity, or to mitigate it. The Edinburg Encyclo is authority for the fact that of two British ships of war cruishing off the African coast, the men of one without exception were sick with malarial fever; of the other not one man was so attacked. Obvious cause of exemption: – a deposit in the cooking apparatus smudged between decks every day with smoke. Passivity was censured in the old time fable; Jupiter bade the teamster put his shoulders to the wheel of the stuck waggon, and then call on him for help.

Thy letter concludes with an expression of fervent religious faith, opinion and hope. About thirteen or fourteen years ago I was, by a succession of disturbing events, brought to a stand in my religious life, and induced carefully, and I believe I may add prayerfully to review, the system of theology of which I had been a warm advocate. Often my prayer to God was that he would lead me out of error, and into truth, and establish me in the right, even if that right led away from time honored systems.

The result has been that I have seen from a stand point new to me. I have become convinced that the early Christian church of which we have record in the New Testament was in a transition state, that the early churches were controlled by New Christians – men who believed that the Mosaic system as it came from Sinia was never to end, and that a Jewish Messiah was to embellish and make more perfect that Jewish system, whose center was the temple at Jerusalem. Abundant evidence of this may be found in the New Testament; and in cotemporaneous and subsequent history we find confirmation of this, and also evidence that it was not untill the commencement