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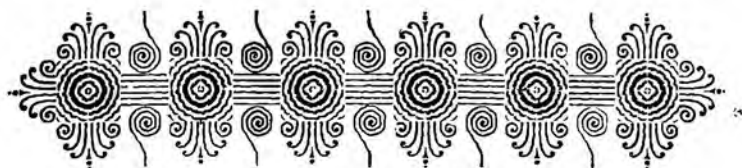
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THE
Sword and the Trowel.

FEBRUARY, 1898.



"The Question Oak" at "Westwood."

PASTOR AND MRS. C. H. SPURGEON'S IMPROMPTU ANSWERS TO STUDENTS' QUESTIONS.

(Continued from Volume xxxiii., page 599.)



HIS year (1884), we were cheered by the graceful presence of Mrs. C. H. Spurgeon, who sat by the side of the never-to-be-forgotten and ever-to-be-loved President, in the balmy air beneath the shade of the spreading branches of the friendly "Question Oak."

Sowing and Reaping in North Africa.

THE agricultural distress among the country Arabs is very great ; but now, after three bad years, abundant rains have fallen. The people, however, had no seed ; so the authorities have stepped in, and offered to supply corn on credit till the harvest comes. This is eagerly taken up, and our port is filled with a crowd of camels and donkeys, daily carrying away the precious corn which has come from Russia. The Arabs believe for the *temporal* and we for the *spiritual* harvest ; may we be as wise and diligent as they ! The oldest station of the North Africa Mission has lately received a rich spiritual blessing ; after many years' sowing, some thirty natives are reported to have been converted. Praise the Lord ! It is blessedly as well as terribly true that " whatsoever a man soweth, *that* shall he also reap."

* * * *

Special interest has attached to two visits to Kairouan, which seems, in some ways, even a harder field than Sousse ; but the opening there is most encouraging. It was a happy sight, this week, to stand amid about sixty men, women, and little ones, attracted from the unreached hills beyond, or the " seventy-shrined town " itself, and there to tell out the blessing of the Saviour's love and sacrifice. There is a glow, a gracious warmth of heart and frame, which brings deep joy with it, in such experiences. Nor is the message always cast aside, but many a time the poor worn face relaxes, and the love of Jesus awakens a response in the long dormant heart. Our hope is, to see some Moslem Paul or Luther bursting forth, to do great things for God ; yet have we need of patience, for it may be that, as in nature, so in grace, the seed must disappear, and seemingly be lost and ruined for a while that, after many days, it may be seen again, and then bring forth fruit abundantly.

'Twas strange to them,—he was placed upon a wide low bench, yet was he not happy till, stretched on mother earth, he felt safe, for " there was more room there." She was an Arab woman, and when she sat upon our stool, she swayed about till she and it seemed bent on taking, then and there, the lowest place. She really could not drink milk, she said, it was so baby-like. At last, she blushed, and covered up her face, and drank it off as if by stealth ; it was so strange, she thought, for a woman to drink milk. Small wonder if the gospel light seems strange to such people, who have been groping always in the darkness, their only guide the poor rushlight of Islam. But, surely, it is stranger still that here, within a week of England, are myriads to whom the true Light has never yet been offered.

Sousse, Tunisia, North Africa.

T. G. CHURCHER.

Notices of Books.

Any Book reviewed or advertised in this Magazine will be forwarded by Messrs. Passmore and Alabaster on receipt of Postal Order for the published price.

Messrs. Passmore and Alabaster have now published the volume to which we called attention when it was being printed. It is rightly named, *Everybody's Book*, by C. H. SPURGEON, for there is something in it for children and adults, for saints and sinners, for rich and poor, for sick and well. It ought to be in

every railway waiting-room, and wherever people have a few minutes to spare for the perusal of a page or two of Mr. Spurgeon's plain gospel teaching. It would not be out of place in any house in the land ; and wherever it goes, it must do good. In paper covers, the price is 1s. ; handsomely bound in cloth, 2s.