

Afterwards her two eldest boys went to Earham to pursue their education under the care of their aunts, and her daughters to North Runcton, in the family of her brother Daniel Gurney. "Whilst conscious of the literary advantages enjoyed by her children, she feared the probable effect of their circumstances, and of the influences to which they were subjected."* The following extract exhibits her feelings and spirit under these conditions.

"*Seventh Month, 4th.*—I have been at Pakefield with my beloved brother and sister: my soul has travailed much in the deeps on many accounts; more particularly while with them that in keeping to our scruples respecting prayer, &c., &c., the right thing might be hurt in no mind. Words fall very short of expression of how much my spirit is overwhelmed within me for us all. Our situation is very peculiar, surrounded as we are with those of various senti-

whose birth is last recorded, and who still resides at Plashet, giving the following particulars of Elizabeth Fry's family and descendents. Eight of her eleven children are still living. Of these only two are members of the Society of Friends, the others belonging to the Church of England. "The grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great do., amount to 139 souls." He adds: "With respect to the Life of my mother as originally published by my sisters Katherine Fry and Rachel E. Cresswell, in 2 vols.—it has long been out of print, and is very difficult to obtain. I think I know an old Friend who would part with one he has for two pounds, as money would be of more use to him than the book. . . . There is a large engraving after Richmond's picture, about 30 inches high, full length, but it is difficult to obtain a copy, and would cost about three pounds. This was taken when she was about 63 years old. . . . If I can be of any further service to you in the collection of matter for your book I shall be very happy to help you, and remain

"Yours truly,

"S. GURNEY FRY."

*S. Corder.

ments, and yet I humbly trust each seeking the right way. To have a clergyman for a brother is very different to having one for a friend; a much closer tie, and a still stronger call, for the sake of preserving sweet unity of spirit, to meet him as far as we can, to offend as little as possible by our scruples, and yet for the sake of others, as well as ourselves, faithfully to maintain our ground, and to keep very close to that which can alone direct aright."

The benefit of having families somewhat divided in religious opinion and practice, is well illustrated by the above extract. When our own brothers and sisters, equally sincere and intelligent with ourselves, see paths of duty differing from our own, we are induced to hope, that there may be nothing harmful in these diversities. And yet our weakness often lies very close to our strength. What we have found good for ourselves we naturally think must be good for others, and especially our children. Elizabeth Fry afterwards suffered acutely because her children, as they grew up, with these various examples before them, indulged a growing disinclination to the peculiar customs of Friends, and generally chose other associations. But as she herself mingled more with Christians holding different views, her liberality continued to increase, as it might not have done had her own religious society been more flourishing, and had her wishes been granted in respect to her own family.

"*Mildred's Court, Twelfth Month, 13th.* (1816)—I returned yesterday from attending poor dear Joseph's funeral at Norwich, the son of my uncle Joseph Gurney. I have gone through a good deal, what with mourning with the mourners, the ministry, &c., &c. I think I was in this respect, at the funeral helped by the Spirit and the power that

we cannot command; though I left Earham with a burdened mind, not having any apparently suitable opportunity for relief, hurrying away, to my feelings prematurely, of which I find even the remembrance painful. My sweet dear girls and boys I much feel again leaving, seeing their critical age and state. What I feel for the children I cannot describe. Oh! may they be sheltered under the great Almighty wing so as not to go greatly astray."

This chapter may fitly be concluded by her advices to her girls and boys when at school.

"Plasht, Ninth Month, 27th, 1816.

"MY MUCH LOVED GIRLS,

"Your letters received last evening gave us much pleasure. I anxiously hope that you will now do your utmost in whatever respects your education, not only on your own account, but for our sakes. I look forward to your return with so much comfort, as useful and valuable helpers to me, which you will be all the more if you get forward yourselves. I see quite a field of useful service and enjoyment for you should we be favored to meet under comfortable circumstances in the spring. I mean that you should have a certain department to fill in the house, amongst the children and the poor, as well as your own studies and enjoyments; I think there has not often been a brighter opening for two girls. Plasht is after all such a home; it now looks sweetly, and your little room is almost a temptation to me to take it for a sitting-room for myself, it is so pretty and so snug; it is newly furnished and looks very pleasant indeed. The poor and the schools I think will be glad to have you home, for help is wanted in these things. Indeed if your hearts are but turned the right way, you may I believe be made instruments of much good; and I shall be glad to have the day come that I may introduce you into prisons and hospitals. "Therefore gird up the loins of your

mind and be sober.' This appears to me your present business—to give all diligence to your present duties; and I cannot help believing, if this be the case, that the day will come when you will be brought into much usefulness."

To each of her sons at school she gave "Rules for a Boy at Boarding School," from which the following extracts are made:

"Be regular; strict in attending to religious duties; and do not allow other boys around thee to prevent thy having some portion of time for reading, at least a text of Scripture, meditation, prayer, and if it appears to be a duty, flinch not from bowing the knee before them as a mark of thy allegiance to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. . . . Strongly as I advise thy faithfully maintaining thy principles and doing thy duty, I would have thee very careful of either judging or reproving others; for it takes a long time to get the beam out of our own eye, before we can see clearly to take the mote out of our brother's eye. There is for one young in years much greater safety in preaching to others by example than in word. . . . Maintain truth and strict integrity upon all points. Be not double-minded in any degree; but faithfully maintain, not only the upright principles on religious grounds, but also the brightest honor. I like to see it in small things and in great, for it marks the upright man."