

"She had therefore invited this large number of influential gentlemen whose attention had been given to the subject—magistrates, lawyers, members of the Prison Discipline Society, and others, to meet her on this occasion (at the Royal Hotel Edinburgh,)—an appalling audience, as they sat all round, to the number of fifty. She gently engaged in conversation with some who were seated at the most distant part of the room, and by degrees fell into an account of her experience, and a full exposition of her mind on the subject.

"As an abstract principle she doubted the right of man to place a fellow-creature under circumstances of such misery, if his offences were not of a very heinous or aggravated nature. She could not believe that it was accordant with reason or religion thus to isolate a being intended by his Creator for social life, unless necessary for the safety of the community, at large; nor did she consider continued solitude as the best method of reforming the offender. Very many hours, she thought, might be passed alone with advantage, and the night always; but she recognized a vast difference between useful and improving reflection, and the imagination dwelling upon past guilt or prospective evil. Her conviction was that with the greater number of criminals left to feed upon their own mental resources, the latter state of mind was highly probable, the former very unlikely. Confinement that secluded from the vicious but allowed of frequent intercourse with sober, well-conducted persons would have been in her view perfect. But where could funds be obtained to raise the prison, or maintain its discipline on such a system? Some intercourse for a few hours daily among prisoners carefully classed, diligently employed, judiciously instructed, and under most vigilant and unceasing superintendence, with the remaining hours of the twenty-four passed in separate, but not gloomy seclusion, was, in her opinion, the best and most likely method of benefiting the criminal and thus eventually diminishing crime. She

shrank from the abuses to which the solitary system is liable. How soon might the cell become an oubliette; how short the transition from kind and constant attention to cruelty and neglect; how entirely the comfort, nay, the existence of a prisoner, must depend upon his keeper's will; and what was human nature to be trusted with such responsibility? With an active magistracy, a zealous clergyman, and careful medical attendant, all might be well; but who could ensure the continuance of these advantages? and were the activity and benevolence of the present day to pass away why might not the slumber of indifference again cover the land?"

A few interesting extracts from the Journal of Mrs. Fry after her return from Scotland, will give an idea of how her time was employed between her visits abroad.

Upton, Ninth Month, 26th.—We arrived at home last Seventh-day, and to my great comfort I found all my family going on well and comfortably. I ventured to ask, or at least to desire, if my goings out were acceptable to the Lord, and if I were to be called to further, and perhaps to still more weighty service, that I might find the blessing of preservation extended to those most dear to me at home, as well as to myself in going. Through mercy this sign has been rather unusually granted me. What can I render unto my Lord for His tender and unmerited mercies?

Tenth Month, 28th.—I have been on a satisfactory visit with my husband, and partly accompanied by Peter Bedford and John Hodgskin, to Croyden and Ifield. Our Meeting in Sussex was a very satisfactory one, and a reading we had next morning at a cottage on the common, belonging to a dear Friend where we had been before. The libraries we established appear to have been much read and valued. It is cause for much thankfulness to find that our labor has not been in vain in the Lord. How sweet are His mercies! May all become His servants saith my soul!

"I have also left home, accompanied by my beloved husband, and my sister Elizabeth to visit a few meetings in Essex.

"*Twelfth Month, 6th.*—This morning I deeply feel the seriousness of laying before my Monthly Meeting my belief that it may be my duty again to visit France and some other parts of the Continent of Europe. It is after much weighty consideration that I have come to the conclusion that it is right to do this. I have long thought that this summer my course might be either to my dearest brother Joseph in America, or to the Continent of Europe; after much weighing it I have believed the latter to be the right opening for me.

"*28th.*—Yesterday, excepting our dear F— and R— C—, all our beloved children dined with us. It really was to me a beautiful sight. Sixteen round our table, happy in each other, a strong tie of love amidst the brothers and sisters, and much united to us, their father and mother. I felt the occasion serious as well as sweet, and very earnestly prayed to the Lord, that I might be very faithful if He called me to any religious service amongst them, whether it were to pray for them or speak to them of His goodness. When the cloth was removed after dinner, I believed it my duty to kneel down and very fervently to pray and to return thanks to my God for all these most tenderly beloved ones. Great help and deliverance has been granted to some of our circle; the Lord has been very gracious; He has added to our number and not diminished them. . . .

"After this solemn time thirteen of our sweet dear grandchildren came in. We passed an evening of uncommon enjoyment, cheerful, yet sober, lively yet sensible of the blessing and peace of our Lord being with us. I seldom if ever remember so bright a family meeting; it reminded me of our Earliham days; but I could not but feel it a blessing when a mother as well as a father is spared to watch their

family grow up and prosper, and to see and enjoy their children's children.

"When I remember all that I have passed through on their account; above all the exquisite anxiety about their spiritual welfare, and now so far to see what the Lord has done for me and for them, what can I say? What can I do? Ought I not to leave them all to His most holy keeping, and no longer 'toil and spin' so much for them?

"*First Month, 12th.*—I returned from Lynn last evening. I was a good deal with my beloved sister Catherine who was there. Before parting we had a deeply interesting time together, when the spirit of prayer was remarkably poured forth upon us. I prayed for them each separately, and I believe that access was in mercy granted to the Throne of Grace. My dearest sister offered a solemn prayer for us before we rose from our knees. I felt as I have often done, an earnest desire that we may none be in spiritual bonds. I think Satan in hardly any way mars the Lord's work more than in putting persons in the stiff bonds of high-churchism. He attacks all professors in this way, and leads them to rest in their sectarianism rather than their Christianity. I do not mean that this was the case with those I was amongst, but I see in it a frightful bait thrown out to all professors of all denominations. Few things I more earnestly desire than unity in the Church of Christ, and that all partition walls may be broken down. Lord, hasten the coming of that day, for Thine own name's sake!"

In order to raise money for the numerous demands on the British Society, Mrs. Fry resolved, with the consent of her friends, upon having a public sale—or what we call a Fair. It is thus spoken of.

"*Paris, Third Month, 17th.*—Before leaving home we were much occupied by a very large sale for the British

Society held in Crosby Hall. I felt it an exercising time lest any should be exposed to temptation by it, and I see that there are two sides to the question respecting these sales, as there is an exposure in it that may prove injurious to some. However, I think I saw in this instance many favorable results, and particularly in the kind and capital help my children gave me in it, and the way in which it occupied them. One day I had fifteen children and several grandchildren helping me to sell. A sweet and Christian spirit appeared to reign in the room. There were more than a thousand pounds obtained by it, clear of all expenses, which will be a great help to the British Society. The marks of kindness shown me by numbers, in the things sent to the sale, were very encouraging to me. My brothers and sisters, my nephews and nieces were also very kind in aiding me in many ways."

The second journey to the Continent was commenced on the 11th of March, 1839. She was accompanied by Josiah Forster, as on the previous visit, and also by her husband and one of her daughters; the youngest son was to join them in Paris.

The former visit had been a kind of seed-sowing. This time on her arrival at Boulogne, many came to seek her and to welcome her to their shores, and she was soon besieged by persons in the humbler ranks of society asking to be supplied with Testaments, tracts, &c. Some had lent what they had received before to friends going into the country and could not get them again. At the Hotel at Abbeville "those to whom she had given them on her previous visit, begged for more, and came creeping up to her apartments to prefer their request. Her Text-books were the favorites. In the morning the people of the Hotel gathered round

her. The First-day that she had spent there on her former visit to Paris—the reading they had in the evening—the prayer she had offered for them, had made a deep impression. They beguiled her into the kitchen where she told them, in broken French—which, however, they contrived to understand—a little of her wishes for them as to faith and practice. Then all would shake hands with her."

Another month was spent in Paris revisiting the places previously inspected and holding philanthropic and religious meetings. The former of these appear to have been held as a kind of weekly Reception.

"Last evening about a hundred persons spent the evening with us. The subject of prisons was brought forward—Newgate, &c. I endeavored to show the state of prisons formerly, and many of their improvements. But above all to inculcate Christian principle as the only sure means of improving practice. I sought in every way, in the cases brought forward, to uphold the value of the Scriptures, and to show the blessed results of faith and repentance. We finished by reading in a solemn manner the 15th of Luke as the chapter so greatly blessed to poor prisoners. I made little comment, there was very great solemnity over us. There were Catholics and Protestants and I believe some of the Greek Church. There were Greeks, Ionians, Spaniards, a Pole, Italians, Germans, English, Americans and French—several of the English and French, persons of rank; the Marquis de Brignolles, Sardinian Minister, and Prince Czartorinsky. Thus the week has run away! may it have been for the real good of others, and the glory of God."

"Paris, 21st.—I feel that under a lively sense of peace and rest of soul, I may record the mercies of the Lord this week.

"Our First-day was very satisfactory, a large Meeting; five of our children with us. (Several of her family spent a few days in Paris at this time.)

"I had a very serious, interesting, and intimate conversation with the Duchess of Orleans.

"I visited and attended to some prisons, formed a Ladies' Society to visit Protestants in prisons and hospitals, met a very influential company at dinner at Lord Granville's, much interesting conversation in the evening; the same twice at Baron Pelet's, and we had an agreeable dinner at Lord William Bentincks. I have paid some very interesting private calls, spent one morning with my children; our great philanthropic evening largely attended—about about a hundred and forty present. Josiah Forster gave a concentrated account of our former evenings, and added other things very agreeably. I strongly impressed upon them the extreme importance of the influence of the higher upon the lower classes of society, by their example and precept; mentioned late hours, theatres, and other evils. Then advised—giving the poor, Christian education; reading the Holy Scriptures in their families; lending Libraries; District Societies, and other objects. We finished with a very solemn Scripture reading, the greater part of the third chapter of Colossians and the 20th and 21st verses of the last chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, 'Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.'

"Previous to reading this I had expressed some solemn parting truths and our party broke up in much love and peace.

"On Fifth-day we dined with some sweet, spiritual and delightful people, the de Presensés and de Valcours; in the evening to Mark Wilke's to meet a very large party of ministers from different parts of France come to attend the Meetings of the various Societies.

"*Fontainebleau, 28th.* The day before our departure

from Paris we visited the Préfet de Police, took in our report of the state of the prisons, and obtained leave for the Protestant ladies to visit the Protestant prisoners; we had much interesting conversation. We have the great satisfaction of hearing that a law is likely to pass for women prisoners throughout France to be under the care of women.

"In the evening, and during the day, numbers came to take leave of us; a good many Greeks who appeared to feel much interest in and for us, as if our labors with them had not been in vain."

Before leaving Paris Mrs. Fry was furnished with a letter from the Minister of the Interior, granting her, Josiah Forster and her husband, permission to visit all the prisons in France. This insured them every respect and attention on their further journey. They proceeded, with a few stops to Lyons where "there was a great press of engagements—prisons and refuges to inspect, besides many schools of which I had time to visit only one, a woman's adult school."

In a letter to her children written from Nismes, May 12th, she says:—

"We paid a very interesting visit to Lyons and found a good deal new in the prisons and Refuges. An order of Catholics, called the 'Brethren and Sisters of St. Joseph,' believe it their duty to take care of prisoners and criminals generally. They do not visit as we do, but take the entire part of turnkeys and prison-officers, and live with the prisoners night and day, constantly caring for them. I thought the effect on the female prisoners surprisingly good, as far as their influence extended. But the mixture of gross superstition is curious, the image of the Virgin dressed up in the finest manner in their different wards. I feared that their religion lay so much in form and ceremonies that it led from heart work and from that great change which would proba-

only be produced did these sisters simply teach them Christianity. Their books appeared to be mostly about the Virgin; not a sign of Scripture to be found in either prison or refuge. I felt it laid upon me as a weighty, yet humbling duty, before I left Lyons, to invite Roman Catholics and Protestants who had influence in the prisons, to come to our Hotel, and there, in Christian love, to tell them the *truth*, to the best of my belief, as the *only* real ground of reformation of heart, and the means likely to conduce to this end. It was the more fearful, as I had to be entirely interpreted for. My heart almost sank within me as the time approached. It was about three o'clock in the day; about sixty people came of the very influential Catholics and Protestants and I was enabled, through a most excellent interpreter, to show them that nothing but the pure simple truth, as revealed in Scripture, through the power of the Holy Spirit, could really enlighten the understanding, or change the heart. My husband and Josiah Forster also took a very useful and valuable part. *Much* satisfaction was expressed. We afterwards dined at a gentleman's who lived in a lovely situation on the top of a hill near Lyons. Our invitations began to flow in, and we should, I doubt not, had we staid longer, soon have been in as great a current as at Paris, or greater. We met with some very interesting, devoted Christian characters—a cousin of the Baroness Pelét's, almost like herself; her notes and flowers coming in every morning. The last day was most fatiguing; we had to rise soon after three in the morning for Avignon, to go a hundred and fifty miles down the Rhone.

"We have passed through the most delightful country I ever saw. Lyons, with the Rhone and Saone, is, in its environs, beautiful, and the passage from Lyons to Avignon really lovely; mountains in the distance, (parts of the Alps,) their tops covered with snow; vegetation in perfection, the flowers of spring and summer in bloom at once, grass just ready to be cut, barley in the ear, lilacs, laburnums, syr-

ingas, roses, pinks, carnations, acacias in full bloom, yellow jessamine wild in the hedges. It is a sudden burst of the finest summer combined with the freshness of spring. The olive groves intermixed with abundant vineyards and mulberry groves, all beautiful from their freshness. The ancient buildings of Avignon, the ruins on the banks of the Rhone, the very fine and wonderful remains of the Roman aqueduct, called the Pont du Gard, really exceed description."

The travelers found at Nismes, and in the neighboring villages a scattered body of people professing the principles of the Society of Friends. "This simple, but interesting body of people are the descendants of the Camisards, who took refuge in the mountains of the Cevennes during the persecutions subsequent to the revocation of the Edict of Nantes." At Congenies the inhabitants were almost all Friends—a kind and religious people. They regularly attended meetings with them, and the last meeting was crowded, the people clustering "to the top of the doors, in all the open windows, and on the walls outside, yet in perfect quietude and order."

After visiting Marseilles, Toulon, and Aix, where many important objects called for attention, including the galley-slaves, the travelers returned in June to Nismes.

"*Sixth Month.*—Our First-day at Nismes was deeply weighty in prospect, so that I rested little that night, as I had ventured to propose our holding one Meeting in the morning in the Methodist chapel, that whosoever liked might attend it; and in the evening to do the same in a very large school room, that all classes might attend, as I believed that all would not come to a Methodist Meeting-house. I

went prostrated before the Lord to this Meeting in the morning, hardly knowing how to hold up my head. I could only apply for help to the inexhaustible Source of our sure mercies, feeling that I could not do it either on account of myself, or because it was the work in which I was engaged; but I could do it for the sake of my Lord, and that His kingdom might spread. Utterly unworthy did I feel myself; but my Lord was gracious. My dear interpreter, Christine Majolier, was there to help me in a very large Meeting, and I felt power wonderfully given me to proclaim the truths of the Gospel, and to press the point of the Lord Himself being our teacher, immediately by His Spirit, and through the Holy Scriptures, and by His providences and works, and to show that no teaching so much conduced to growth in grace as the Lord's teaching. There was much attention; at the close I felt the spirit of prayer much over us, longed for its vocal expression, and felt a desire that some one might pray, when a Methodist minister, in a feeling manner expressed a wish to offer something in prayer, to which we, of course, assented. It proved solemn and satisfactory.

"We dined at our dear friend, the Pasteur Emilien Frossard's; he and his wife have been like a brother and sister to us. We were also joined by a Roman Catholic gentleman who has, I think, been seriously impressed by our visit, and it has led him to have the Scriptures read to his workmen. There were also Louis Majolier, his daughter, and a young English friend. I think I have very seldom in my life felt a more lively sense of the love of God than at this table. I may say our souls were animated under its sweetness; I think we rejoiced together, and magnified the name of our God.

"In the evening we met in a large school-room that would contain some hundreds, where numbers assembled, principally the French protestants and some of their pastors. There again I was greatly helped, I really believe, by the

Holy Spirit to speak to them upon their important situations in the Church of Christ, and the extreme consequence of their being sound both in faith and practice. I also felt it my duty to show them, as Protestants, the infinite importance, not only in France, but in the surrounding nations, of their being 'as a city set upon a hill that cannot be hid.' I showed them how the truth is spreading and how important to promote it, being preachers of righteousness in life and conversation, as well as in word and doctrine. There was here also much attention; and our dear and valued friend and brother in Christ, Emilien Frossard, prayed beautifully that the word spoken might profit the people, and particularly that the blessing of the Lord might rest upon me. It was no common prayer on my behalf. Thanks to my Heavenly Father, the Meeting broke up in much love, life and peace."

Another meeting was held the next morning at the village of Codognan. Her account then continues:

"After this we proceeded to Montpellier where important service opened for us. A Protestant Ladies Committee was formed to visit the great Female Prison there; much important advice offered to the Governor, upon the charges now being made in the prison, and female officers being appointed. We appeared to go in the very time wanted, and obtained the liberation of several poor women from their very sad cells. The Prefet was most kind to us, and thus our way was easily made: the Mayor and all with us. Help was given me to speak religiously to the poor women before all these gentlemen."

"We proceeded from place to place until we arrived at Toulouse, on Seventh-day evening, the 16th of the Sixth Month. On First-day evening we met a large number of Protestants at one of their Scripture readings. We took part in the service. At the close a solemn prayer was