

offered for us by Francis Courtois, one of a very remarkable trio of brothers, (bankers there,) all three of whom are given up to the service of their Lord, and appear to have been instruments greatly blessed. Their kindness to us was very great. In Toulouse we visited two prisons, had one important prison Meeting and one exceedingly solemn and satisfactory Scripture reading and time of prayer with the Courtois family, one or two pasteurs, and other religious persons."

She next went to Montauban, the place where the ministers of the Protestant Church of France were educated. Here "without expressing any other wish than to have an evening party at one of their houses, to meet some of the professors and students of the College, (the only one in France for educating pasteurs of the Reformed Church,) we found, to our dismay, all arranged to receive us in the College; and on arriving there imagine how I felt when the Dean of the College offered me his arm to take me into the chapel. There I believe the whole of the collegians were assembled, in all at least a hundred. It was fearful work. There were also numbers of the people of the town, we thought about three hundred. Josiah Forster spoke first, explaining our views at some length. Then I rose with an excellent interpreter, one of their pasteurs. I first told them something of my prison experience, and the power of Christian principle and kindness; then I related a little of the state of their prisons in France; then my ideas as to the general state of France; and afterwards endeavored to bring home to them the extreme importance of their calling as pasteurs in their Church. I reminded them of that passage of Scripture 'the leaders of the people caused them to err.

I endeavored to show them how awful such a state of things must be, and the extreme importance of their being sound in doctrine and practice."

"Simple duty led me to Montauban. We were united in much Christian love to many there. I forgot to say that at the close of the occasion the pasteur who interpreted for me prayed beautifully and spiritually that the words spoken might profit the people; he also prayed for us. This has frequently occurred at the close of some of our interesting Meetings; a pouring forth of the spirit of prayer has been granted. My not knowing the language has obstructed my offering it, and it has appeared laid upon others instead. I have seldom felt sweeter peace in leaving a place than Montauban."

Constant exertion, together with the heat of the climate, had now affected Mrs. Fry's health so that her husband strongly urged their turning aside for a brief rest in the cooler atmosphere of the Pyrenees. But wherever she went she scattered the seeds of the Kingdom, in words of kindness, and in Bibles, text-books and tracts. Having some Scripture extracts in Spanish, when they went over the line, she gave them to the peasants, or left them at the cottages, and even in the manger of a cow-house—having heard that the Spaniards, including the priests, were eager for books, and carefully preserved them.

She also employed her *rest* in preparing a "memorial of considerable length, with the aid of her companions, for the Minister of the Interior, and a shorter one for the Prefect of Police, embodying her observations on the state of the prisons which she had inspected and her recommendations for their improvement."

Thus refreshed the little party hastened backward through the south of France and turned their steps toward Switzerland. At Bonigen, near Interlachen, she writes, August, 11th.

"I believe that my gracious Lord has guided our steps to this place; blessed be His name. At Grenoble, where I felt rather pressed in spirit to spend a First-day, I had a curious opening for religious service, and I believe an important one, with several enlightened Roman Catholics, several Protestants, and a school of girls. It was a time of spiritual refreshment by which many appeared helped and comforted. The next day was occupied in important prison visits, and in the evening a Meeting with influential Roman Catholics.

"Josiah Foister having left us to go by diligence to Geneva, we traveled alone through Savoy, and had a pleasant journey through a lovely country; but the darkness of the Roman Catholic religion, and the arbitrary laws, not allowing even a tract to be given away, were painful; we found that a Swiss gentleman had lately been imprisoned for doing it, and confined with a thief. We arrived at Geneva the 25th of the seventh month in the evening. Here we passed a very interesting time, from various and important openings for religious service in large parties, in prisons, &c. My belief is that we were sent to that place, and amidst some trials from different causes, there was a pouring forth of spiritual help and spiritual peace. Many of the pastors came to us and not a few expressed their refreshment and satisfaction with our visit. Before we left, several of the most spiritual in a very striking and beautiful manner preached to us, particularly to myself, and prayed for us all; a time I think never to be forgotten by us. We had one of the most beautiful entertainments I ever saw, given by Colonel Tronchin at a lovely place a few miles from Geneva, the fine snowy mountains about us, the lake within

sight. In an avenue in the midst of a fine wood we had a handsome repast to which about a hundred persons sat down. The gentleman who gave it is a devoted Christian, a man of large property and this blessing sanctified by grace. I visited a delightful institution for the sick of his establishment on his grounds. To return to our entertainment, grace was very solemnly said before our meal, and very beautiful hymn-singing afterwards. Then withdrew into the house where I believe the anointing was poured forth upon me to speak the truth in love and power. I had an excellent, spiritually-minded interpreter, (Professor La Harpe); many apparently felt this occasion. A young English gentleman came up to me afterwards and expressed his belief that it would influence him for life; and a lady came to me and said how remarkably her state had been spoken to. Much love was also shown to us, and unity. Indeed I felt how our Lord permits his servants to rejoice together in love; and even to partake of the good things of this life in His love and fear, with a subjected spirit rejoicing in His mercies, temporal and spiritual. We had very great kindness also shown to us by many, amongst others by our dear friend Mary Ann Vernet and her family, including her daughter, the Baroness de Stael, with whom we dined at Cappel. The Duke de Broglie and his family were with her; we had a very interesting visit. We went from Geneva to our dear friend Sophia Delesserts; her husband was out; they have a beautiful place on the banks of the Lake of Geneva, near Rolle; here we had the warmest reception, and were refreshed and comforted together; she is truly loved by me."

The following description of an evening at the beautiful residence of Colonel Tronchin, at Beseinge, where more than a hundred persons were gathered, is from the pen of a young student, afterwards Secretary of the "Belgian Société Evangélique."

"We had half expected a philosophical discourse upon subjects of philanthropic and general interest, but everything that fell from her lips was characterized by delicacy, extreme simplicity, and an ardent desire to draw our attention to our own happiness, in being permitted the opportunity for meditation on the one subject which seemed always present in her thoughts, Christ Jesus, crucified for the expiation of our sins. At this distance of time I have an actual realization of the opening of her exhortation. 'I think,' said she, 'it is impossible for us to be more profitably employed than by occupying the next few moments with the contemplation of the love which the Lord Jesus has for us.' The rooms were full to overflowing; my fellow-students and I took up our places in the passage, on the stair-case, crowded round the open door, eagerly hanging on such parts of the beautiful exhortation as we could catch by the most breathless attention; after she had concluded she kindly came out amongst us and expressed her regret that we should have been so inconvenienced. I can see her now, her tall figure leaning on Colonel Tronchin's arm, M. La Harpe at her side, her dignified, animated, yet softened countenance bending towards us. I can never forget it. Such occasions are rare in life, they are very green spots in the garden of memory—more, they are opportunities given for improvement, solemnly increasing the responsibility of each who participate in them. May I never lose the impression of that day at Beseinge, nor the holy lessons I there heard and learnt."

After leaving Geneva the travelers went to Lausanne, Berne, Thun, Grindel, Brienz, Bonigen, and Zurich, in Switzerland, scattering everywhere the seeds of peace, kindness and reform. The following incident, is illustrative of Mrs. Fry's peculiar gifts as a peacemaker.

"Whilst at Bonigen, Herr Mitchell, the landlord of the

little inn, and his family, attended their First-day evening readings. On one of these occasions a peasant girl was with them who appeared pious and afflicted; her name was Madelina Kauss. She came from a neighboring village to seek counsel of Elizabeth Fry. Madelina and her mother had joined themselves to a little body of serious people, Pietists, somewhat resembling Methodists, seceders from the National Church. The father, a coarse, ignorant man, vehemently threatened his wife, and turned his daughter out of doors to earn her own livelihood, which she did by weaving for nine French sous a day. Pious people from Berne had interfered on their behalf, but had only made matters worse. It so fell out that about this time a certain small old-fashioned black-letter German newspaper reached the little inn at Bonigen; the host and his household were startled on finding in it a long account of his guests,—'a history of Mrs. Fry, her work and labors of love;' concluding with her visit to the Oberland of Berne and residence at Herr Mitchell's country inn. After careful perusal it occurred to the worthy host that in his inmates he had found the very people to rectify the wrongs of poor Madelina and restore peace in her parents' dwelling; persons in his opinion not to be resisted by Henrich Kauss, the peasant of Wildersewyl, to whom he advised that a visit should forthwith be made. When the carriage came to convey the party he insisted on driving it himself arrayed in his holiday costume. The interview with the family was quite pathetic. The father laid the fault of his violence and severity on the grandfather, and he on the schoolmaster; but a little kind and wise conciliation sufficed to bring them all to tears; they wept and kissed, and Herr Mitchell wept for sympathy. After which Elizabeth Fry had a religious time with Madelina, her mother, and a few of their neighbors; leaving them with the thankful belief that they had been permitted to act the part of peacemakers."*

* Life by S. Corder, page 540.

"Zurich, Eighth Month, 25th.—We left our sweet little home at Bonigen, on the banks of Lake Brienz, last Fourth-day. I felt refreshed by our visit to this country. I think my prayers have been heard and answered in its being a very uniting time with those most tenderly beloved by me. We have had some interesting communications with serious persons in the humble walks of life who reside in that neighborhood. We have desired to aid them spiritually and temporally, but the difficulty of communication has been very great, from want of suitable interpreters; still I trust that some were edified and comforted. I also hope our circulation of books and tracts has been useful, and the establishment of at least one library at Brienz for the laboring classes. We have traveled along gently and agreeably by Lucerne, and through a delightful country."

"On the morning of their departure from Zurich the venerable pastor Gesner, and many others, called to take leave. This apostolic old man pronounced a striking blessing on Elizabeth Fry to which she replied in terms that caused the bystanders to weep aloud."

"Ludwigsburg, (a few miles from Stuttgart,) Ninth Month, 1st.—On the evening of the day that I wrote at Zurich, we went with our dear friend the Baroness Pelet, afterwards joined by the Baron, to the house of an ancient devoted pasteur, Gesner. His wife was the daughter of that excellent servant of the Lord, Lavater. We met a large number of persons, I believe generally serious. I had proposed to myself speaking on the prison subject; but my way opened differently—to enlarge upon the state of the Protestant Church in France, to encourage all its members to devotedness; and particularly in that place where deep trials have been their portion from their Government upholding infidelity and infidel men. At the close of the Meeting our venerable friend Gesner spoke in a lively, powerful manner, and avowed his belief that the Lord Himself

had enabled me to express what I had done, it was so remarkably 'the word in season.' I paid also a satisfactory religious visit to the female prisoners in the afternoon. The next morning I visited the head magistrate, represented the evils I had observed, and saw some ladies about visiting prisons. We afterwards went a sweet expedition on the Lake with our beloved friends, the Baron and Baroness Pelet. Early in the evening I set off with a dear girl—great grand-daughter to Lavater and grand-daughter to Pasteur Gesner—Barbara Usteri, in a curious little carriage to pay some visits, and to spend an evening at the house of the aunt of Matilda Escher, another interesting young woman with whom I had become acquainted, I believe providentially, at an inn near Interlachen. I had no one with me but strangers as my dear family stayed with the Baron and Baroness Pelet at my desire; but I feel not among strangers; because those who love the Lord Jesus are dear to me, and in our holy Head we are one. I can hardly express how much I have found this to be the case on this journey—the love, the unity and the home feeling I have had with those I never saw before! and I have also found how little it matters where we are, for 'where the God of peace is there is home.'"

After visiting the Prison and Orphan Asylum at Ludwigsburg the travelers proceeded to Frankfort where they had a stall opened for the sale of Bibles and tracts, and then hastened home by way of Ostend and Dover, arriving in peace and health September 13th, 1839. The journey through France and Switzerland occupied about six months.

The following shows some of the results of Elizabeth Fry's extensive observation and deep experience, regarding different religious persuasions.

"*Upton, First-day Twelfth Month, 8th.*—I yesterday had some intimate conversation with Captain —, who has just joined, or is about to join, the Plymouth Brethren; with a young lady, a follower of Edward Irving; with another lady, a high Church woman; and with Josiah Forster, an elder in our portion of the church. I cannot say but that it is at times an exercise of my religious faith to find the diversities of opinions existing amongst the professors of Christianity, and not only the professors, but those who I believe really love their Lord; but my better judgment tells me that there must be a wise purpose in its being so. These divisions into families and tribes may tend to the life and growth of religion, which, if we were all of one mind, might not be the case. But whilst I perceive these differences, I perceive that there is but one Christianity, one Body, one Spirit, one hope of our calling; one Lord, one faith, and one baptism; one God and Father of all. All true members of the Church of Christ are, and must be, one in Him, and the results we see the same everywhere. Love to God and love to man manifested in life and conduct; and how strikingly proved in death, as well as life, that victory is obtained through the same Saviour; that in the dying hour death loses its sting and the grave its victory. Therefore if we believe and know our hearts to be cleansed by the blood of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit live to His glory, bearing the fruits of faith, it matters little, in my estimation, to what religious denomination we belong, so that we mind our calling and fill the place our Lord would have us to fill in His Militant Church on earth."

CHAPTER TENTH.

THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH VISITS TO THE CONTINENT.

Previous to her first tour in Belgium, Holland, and Germany Elizabeth Fry paid her respects to her own Sovereign whose marriage is thus referred to :

"*First Month, 1840.*—An eventful time in public and private life. Our young Queen is to be married to Prince Albert. She has sent me a present of fifty pounds for our Refuge at Chelsea by Lord Normanby. Political commotions about the country—riots in Wales—much religious stir in the 'Church of England,' numbers of persons becoming much the same as Roman Catholics—Popish doctrines preached openly in many of the churches—infidel principles in the form of Socialism gaining ground."

"*Upton, Second Month, 1st.*—I am called to visit our young Queen to-day, in company with William Allen, and I hope my brother Samuel also.

"Went to Buckingham Palace and saw the Queen. Our interview was short. Lord Normanby, the Home Secretary, presented us. The Queen asked us where we were going on the Continent. She said it was some years since she saw me. She asked about Caroline Neave's Refuge for which she had lately sent the fifty pounds. This gave me an opportunity of thanking her. I ventured to express my satisfaction that she encouraged various works of charity; and I said it reminded me of the words of Scripture, 'with the