

"*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

merciful Thou wilt show Thyself merciful.' Before we withdrew I stopped and said I hoped the Queen would allow me to assure her that it was our prayer that the blessing of God might rest upon the Queen and her Consort.

"I have for some time believed that duty would call me to have a meeting in London or the neighborhood previous to leaving. I see many difficulties attached to it, and perhaps none so much as my great fear of women becoming too forward in these things, beyond what the Scripture dictates; but I am sure the Scripture most clearly and forcibly lays down the principle that the Spirit is not to be grieved, or quenched, or vexed, or resisted; and on this principle I act, under the earnest desire that whatever the Lord leads me into by His Spirit may be done faithfully to Him and in His name; and I am of opinion that nothing Paul said to discourage women's speaking in the churches alluded to their speaking through the help of the Spirit, as he clearly gave directions how they should conduct themselves under such circumstances, when they prayed or prophesied."

The Meeting is thus described by one who was present:

"It was really a most impressive occasion,—the large, fine, circular building filled—not less I should think than fifteen hundred present. She began by entreating the sympathy and supplications of those present. I cannot tell you how mine flowed forth on her behalf. After her prayer we sat still for some time; then William Allen spoke; and then she rose, giving as text, 'Yield yourselves unto God as those that are alive from the dead;' and uncommonly fine was her animated, yet tender exhortation to all present, but more especially to the young, to present themselves as living sacrifices to the Lord, to be made of Him new creatures in Christ—the old things passed away and all things become new, as those alive from the dead. This change she dwelt and enlarged on much; its character and the Power

that alone can effect it; the duty demanded of us—'Yield yourselves;' and its infinite and eternal blessedness. I was astonished and deeply impressed; the feeling was, 'surely God is amongst us of a truth.'"

Mrs. Fry and her companions—William Allen, her brother Samuel Gurney and his daughter Elizabeth, Lucy Bradshaw and Josiah Forster, arrived at Ostend, Feb. 27th, whence she wrote to her family.

"We are favored with a bright morning and we may thankfully say that our spirits are permitted to partake of the same brightness. I have a sweet feeling of being in the right place. An order is come from the Belgian Government for us to visit their prisons. So the way opens before us; and though I give up much to enter these services, and feel leaving my most tenderly beloved ones, yet there is such a sense of blessedness in the service, and the honor of doing the least thing for my Lord, unworthy as I am, that it often brings a peculiar feeling of health, (if I may so say) as well as peace, to my body, soul and spirit.

"My brother Samuel is a capital traveling companion, so zealous, so able, so willing, so generous; and I find dear Elizabeth sweet, pleasant and cheering. Bruges is a beautiful old town; such exquisite buildings—they delighted my eye. Here we visited the English Convent where to our surprise, we could only speak through a grating. We had a good deal of conversation with dear S. P.—'s sister and the Superior. They appeared very interesting women. We talked about their shutting-in system. I expressed my disapprobation of it, as a general practice, and one liable to great abuse. I sent them some books and mean to send more. We also visited a large school; and to the great pleasure and amusement of the children your uncle gave them all a present. They could not in the least understand our language as they speak Flemish.

"We have been much interested this morning in visiting the Maison de Force; it is a very excellent prison of considerable size, but wants some things very much. We have since been occupied with the numerous English here. They are without pasteur, or school, and quite in a deplorable state. We propose having a meeting with them of a religious and philanthropic nature, and hope to establish some schools, &c., amongst them."

"Brussels, Third Month, 1st.

"We left Ghent on Seventh-day, about half-past two o'clock, after visiting a most deplorable prison where we found a cell with the floor and sides formed of angular pieces of wood, so that no prisoner could stand, lie down, or lean against the wall without suffering. We also visited a Lunatic asylum so beautifully conducted that I more took the impression how happy such persons may be made than I ever did before. They are cared for by the 'Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul.' After rather a slow journey we arrived here to dinner at six o'clock.

*"Ghent, Third Month, 3rd.—*Here we are once more—we have visited another large prison for the military, and had a very interesting Meeting with the English workmen, their wives and children. I am glad to say they conclude for us to send them schoolmasters. We had flocks after us last evening, English and Belgians—I suppose about seventy; they appeared to be touched by our reading. I observe how much the English appear impressed on these occasions. Our little party are very comfortable and each has plenty to do.

"Antwerp, Third Month, 6th.

"Upon our return to Brussels from Ghent we visited the great prison of Vilorde. We gave many of our little Scripture extracts to the prisoners. We got home to dinner and spent the evening at the Baron de Bois' where we met several pleasant persons. A considerable number of Belgians, poor and rich came to an evening meeting at our Hotel. The next

day was one of no common interest. After some engagements in the morning, breakfasting out, &c., we visited the King. Our party were William Allen, my brother Samuel, J. Forster and myself; and before we left Lucy Bradshaw and dear Elizabeth were admitted to see him. We first had a very interesting conversation on the state of the prisons, and your uncle read the King our address to him upon the subject. When the part was read expressing our desire for him the Queen and his family, he appeared to feel it much. We had open, interesting communication on many subjects. We remained nearly an hour. The Queen was unwell and the children asleep, therefore I did not see them. We gave the King several books for himself and the Queen. We were invited by Count Arrivabene to dine with one of the first Belgian families. I felt it rather fearful when, to my surprise, after dinner I was seated by the Dean of Brussels, surrounded by the company and told that I was permitted to speak openly upon my religious views. Indeed I think the wish was that I should preach to them. This was curious, because I was warned on going, to say nothing about religion. Preach I did not, as I do not feel that at my command; but I spoke very seriously about the Scriptures not being read in the prisons, and endeavored to show in few words, what alone can produce change of heart, life and conduct, and the danger of resting in forms. We parted in much good-will, and we sent the Dean and the ladies some books. In the evening we had a philanthropic party at our hotel. The next morning a large, very solemn and interesting, religious meeting at the hotel. We left Brussels in much peace—*rejoicing* would not be too strong a word. In nearest love. E. F."

The interview with the Dean of Brussels is thus described by her niece, Elizabeth Gurney.

*"Brussels, March 6th.—*We expect to end our very interesting visit in this place to-day. Had I a hundred times

more power of writing I could not initiate you into our life here. A great Meeting is now assembling in the Tab'e de Hote salon, fitted up by our landlord for the occasion. This is to be our farewell meeting. We have had a very full morning, partly employed in distributing books. The servants at the palace sent an entreaty that they might not be overlooked. I wish you could have seen us looking out a good variety for about sixty of them.

"Yesterday began with a full tide of business. They were to see the King at twelve o'clock. My aunt looked beautifully. He is a particularly pleasing-looking man, rather older than I expected. The Duchess of Kent had kindly written to the King to say that my aunt was likely to visit Brussels.

"I must tell you about our dinner at M. le Comte de ——'s the first Roman Catholic family here. The party consisted of fifteen persons, only two speaking English. Amongst them was the Dean, the head of the Church here, under the Bishop of Malines. Much that was interesting passed. The Dean and our aunt seated themselves in a corner of the room, and by degrees the whole party gathered round,—the Count and Josiah Forster, interpreting by turns. It was a critical thing to know what to say, as the conversation became more and more of a religious nature. She began on the prisons—prevention of crime—how much the upper classes are often the cause, by example, of the sins of the lower, related a few of her prison facts as proofs, and finally ended by saying, 'Will the Dean allow me to speak my mind candidly?' His permission being granted, and that of the Count and Countess, she began by expressing the sincere interest that she felt for the inhabitants of the city, and how much she had been desiring for them, 'that, as a people, they might each place less confidence in men, and in the forms of religion, and look to Christ with an entire and simple faith.' The priest said nothing, but turned the subject and asked what the views of the Quakers were;

upon which Josiah Forster gave them a short account in French which appeared to interest them all."

Leaving Brussels they spent about two weeks in visiting Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and Twolle. A letter from Dr. Bosworth, whose acquaintance was formed at Rotterdam, shows the kind of fruit borne in those places. In it he says:

"Before answering your questions let me discharge a debt of gratitude which I and my wife owe to you and your friends, for your benevolent exertions in Rotterdam. You have excited amongst us, and have left, I trust, an abiding Christian affection. We feel we are brethren, united in the same good cause of our aderable Saviour, that of promoting 'peace on earth and good-will to men.' How soon will the wood, hay and stubble of party be burnt up, and what is built on the Rock of Ages remain, &c., &c. We are here in a parched wilderness, but your visit has brought a refreshing dew, and may it abide with us."

Amsterdam, Third Month, 19th.

"MY DEAREST H——,

We find this a very interesting place. How much amused you would all be at some of our curious meetings. The other evening we went to drink tea at the house of a converted Jew, where we met a member of the Pietists; he read the 14th chapter of John in French; I spoke and gave a little advice on Christian love and unity; then the Jew spoke, and another Jew prayed, and afterwards William Allen. The serious, the sweet, the good and the ludicrous were curiously mixed up together. Yesterday was very full; first company, breakfast and reading; then preparation for two meetings, one for prisoners in the afternoon, and one in the evening for philanthropic objects, &c. At three o'clock about twenty gentlemen came to discuss with us the

state of the prisoners of Holland—an excellent meeting. A gentleman named Surengar was present who has followed us from Rotterdam, and has kindly invited us to his house in the North of Holland. Your uncle is very clever in his speeches and real knowledge of the subject. I received blessing and thanks from many, far too much; our visit appears most seasonable here, so much wanting to be done in the prisons and other things.

"Fifth-day morning.—We went to our Friends' Meeting; when we arrived the numbers round the door were so great that we doubted whether we could get in; however way was soon made for us and we found a large and highly respectable congregation needing no interpreter. We had certainly a flowing Meeting in every sense, I think the cup flowed over with Christian love. I believe it has been a most unusual thing the way in which hearts have been opened towards us. I then went off to the prison to launch the Committee of Ladies in visiting it, several gentlemen also with me. I had just time to come home, rest and dress, and set off to a dinner at our friend Van der Hope's where there are the most exquisite paintings by the Dutch masters. I think I never saw any so much to my taste.

"I can assure thee, my dearest H—, when I see how ripe the fields are unto harvest everywhere, I long and pray that more laborers may be brought into this most interesting, important, and, may I not say delightful service; but there must be a preparation for it, by yielding to the cross of Christ, and often deep humiliations and much self-abasement are needful, before the Lord makes much use of us: but above all we must yield ourselves to God, as 'those that are alive from the dead;' He will then fit for His own work in His own way.

Dearest love to all of you,

I am thy most tenderly attached mother

ELIZABETH FRY."

The party now turned eastward toward Hanover to visit a small colony of Friends at Minden and Pyrmont. From these places Mrs. Fry writes to her family:

"Minden, Third Month, 28th.—We left Twolle on Second-day the 23rd and slept at a true German inn—neither carpet nor curtain. Our night was disturbed, still we did well. The next day we set off in good time and traveled until twelve o'clock; we did not settle till two in the morning. I think I have not yet recovered the fatigue, not having slept well one night since. We have been interested by the Friends, who are much like those of Congenies, but more entirely Friends. We have visited them in almost all their families and had two Meetings with them. We have been brought into much sympathy with them, for they are a tried, and I believe a Christian people. We have this evening had three pastors with us, two of them I think spiritual men. Our meeting was largely attended this afternoon, and I can assure you my heart almost failed me, being interpreted for in German is so difficult; but we have, in Auguste Mundbenck, a well educated young Friend, a capital interpreter. The meeting ended well. In my wakeful nights I feel solitary, and have you very present with me; but I humbly trust He that sleepeth not is watching over you with tender care.

"Pyrmont, 29th.—In our way here we visited at Hameln a large prison, under the King of Hanover, almost all the poor prisoners, upwards of four hundred in number, heavily chained. I told them a little of my deep interest for their present and eternal welfare; they appeared to feel it very much; one poor man, a tall fine figure with heavy chains on both legs, sat weeping like a child. I am just come in from visiting some families of Friends; they are really a very valuable set. I longed to take a picture for you of an old Friend with a plain scull-cap, either quilted or knitted, a purple handkerchief, a striped apron, and the whole ap-

pearance truly curious; but she was a sweet old woman, full of love. I am really amused; the old and young are as fond of me as if I could fully speak to them; the little ones sitting on my lap as if I were their mother, and leaning their little heads upon me. A little child about four or five said, what happy days they should have when we went to see them. We expect a large party this evening.

"30th.—We had our party and understand there were present some of the first persons of the town, besides the master of the hotel, his wife, the doctor, the post-master, the book-binder, the shoemaker, &c., &c., &c.! We discussed the state of their poor, their not visiting them or attending to them; for it appears that visiting the poor is not thought of here. I hope and expect our coming will be useful in this respect.

"Hameln—ended Hanover, Fourth Month, 2nd.

"While stopping at a small inn I mean to finish my account of our visit to Pymont. After I wrote we went shaking on over such bad roads from house to house to see Friends, that I almost feared we must break down. We twice dined with them in their beautiful spot at Friedenthal, (or the valley of peace,) surrounded with hills and a river flowing through it; roebucks wild from the woods abounding. We were very pleasantly received. Our visits were very satisfactory to these very valuable and agreeable people. Tears and kisses abounded at our departure. I must tell you of an interesting event. I went to buy something for little John at a shop where a very agreeable lady spoke to me in English, and I was so much attracted by her that I requested her to accept a book, and sent a work on the rites and ceremonies of the Jews. I asked her to attend our Meeting on Second-day morning. She proved to be a Jewish lady of some importance; she came to the Meeting with several other Jews, and truly I believe her heart was touched. I invited her to come to see us the next evening, when we expected several persons to join our party. The

following day we agreed to form a District Society to attend to the deplorable state of the poor. The Jewish lady capitally helped us; she then appeared in a feeling state; but this morning when the ladies met to finish our arrangements, and I felt it my place to give them a little advice, and my blessing in the name of the Lord, the tears poured down her face. I then felt it my absolute duty to take her into my room to give her such books as I thought right and to tell her how earnest my desires were that she should come to the knowledge of our Saviour. I think in our whole journey no person has appeared to be so affected or so deeply impressed; may it be lasting and may she become a Christian indeed!

"Hildesheim, Fourth Month, 6th.

"We left Hanover to-day about five o'clock, after rather a singular visit. We arrived there on Fifth-day evening. On Sixth and Seventh-day our way did not open quite so brightly as sometimes. We saw a deplorable prison,—poor untried prisoners chained to the ground until they would confess their crimes, whether they had committed them or not, and some other sad evils. Several interesting persons came to see us. Seventh-day evening we spent at a gentleman's house where we met some very clever and superior persons, and had much important communication upon their prisons, &c., &c. On First-day we had our little Meetings; such a tide on the Sabbath I think I hardly ever had; it was like being driven down a mighty stream; we had allowed persons to come to us, supposing it would be the last day there. I made some calls of Christian love. The principal magistrate came for an hour about the prisons, and very many other persons. In the evening we had also a party of a select nature to our Scripture-reading, and after a very solemn time we represented many things wanted in Hanover. I forgot to tell you, amongst other visitors the Queen's Chamberlin came to say that the Queen wished to see our whole party on Second-day at one o'clock. We