

had proposed going that morning early, but put it off on this account. I think I never paid a more interesting visit to royalty—my brother Samuel, William Allen and myself. In the first place we were received with ceremonious respect, shown through many rooms into a drawing-room where were the Queen's Chamberlain and three ladies-in-waiting to receive us. . . . After some little time we were sent for by the Queen; the King was too ill to see us. She is a stately woman, tall, large, and rather a fine countenance. We very soon began to speak of her afflictions, and I gave a little encouragement and exhortation. She was much affected, and after a little requested us to sit down. We had very interesting and important subjects brought forward; the difficulties and temptations to which rank is subject, the importance of their influence, the objects incumbent upon them to attend to and help in—Bible Societies, Prisons, &c. We then read our address to the Queen, wishing her to patronize ladies visiting the prisons; it contained serious advice, and our desires for her, the King, and the Prince; then I gave the Queen several books which she accepted in the kindest manner."

The travelers then proceeded to Berlin where they met with a warm welcome from all classes and found an ample field of labor. In the Princess William, sister of the late King Frederick William III., Mrs. Fry found a zealous supporter of her efforts for the improvement of the prisons. Their first public reception is thus described by her niece: also a meeting at the palace of the Princess William.

"Hotel de Russie, Berlin.

"Our dear aunt's first evening for philanthropic purposes took place on the 13th. There is a splendid room in the Hotel capable of containing two hundred persons, where we have our reunions. (At one end of this large room was

a platform on which the company were seated, with Professor Tholuck, as interpreter.) It would be impossible to describe the intense interest and eagerness which prevailed when our aunt rose. The attention of the whole assembly seemed completely riveted by her address. William Allen had previously told them the object of their mission, and a little of what they had been doing since our arrival in Berlin.

"The Princess William has been desirous to give her sanction, as far as possible, to the Ladies' Committee for visiting the prisons that my aunt has been forming; and to show her full approbation had invited the Committee to meet her at her palace. The Princess had also asked some of her friends; so we must have been about forty. Such a party of ladies and only our friend Count Groben to interpret. The Princess received us most kindly. The Crown Princess arrived. The Princess Charles was also there; and the Crown Prince himself soon afterwards entered. Our aunt sat in the middle of the sofa, the Crown Prince and Princess, and the Princess Charles on her right, the Princess William, Princess Marie, and Princess Czartoryski on the left; Count Groben sitting near her to interpret; the Countesses Bohlen and Dernath by her—I was sitting by the Countess Schlieffen, a delightful person who is much interested in all our proceedings. A table was placed before our aunt, with pens, ink and paper, like other Committees, with the various rules that she and I had drawn up, and the Countess Bohlen had translated into German, and which she read to the assembly. Our aunt then gave a clever, concise account of the Societies in England. When business was over my aunt mentioned some texts which she asked leave to read. A German Bible was handed to Count Groben, the text in Isaiah having been pointed out, that our aunt had wished for, 'Is not this the fast that I have chosen,' &c. The count read it, after which our aunt said, 'Will the Prince and Princesses allow a short time for

prayer?' They all bowed assent and stood, while she knelt down and offered one of her touching heartfelt prayers for them—that a blessing might rest on the whole place, from the King on his throne to the poor prisoner in the dungeon; and she prayed especially for the Royal Family; then for the ladies, that the works of their hands might be prospered in what they had now undertaken to perform. Many of the ladies now withdrew, and we were soon left with the Royal Family. They all invited us to see them again before we left Berlin, and took leave of us in the kindest manner."

How admirably did this meek and trustful woman maintain the simple dignity of her apostolic office. Like Paul she was polite to the high as well as to the low in position, remembering the words "Ye have one Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren." She was not captivated by the glitter of court-life, even when it was sustained by true nobility of mind and character, as was the case in Prussia. Her sympathies were with the people, and she felt their sufferings and bonds, as bound with them, using her divinely given influence to ameliorate sorrow wherever found. She seized on this favorable moment to present to the Crown Prince a concern which weighed upon her spirit. Having learned by inquiry that members of the Lutheran church still suffered great oppression, in various ways, she opened the subject to the heir to the throne. He gave her an attentive hearing and encouraged her to act as she believed to be right. Thereupon an address was drawn up by William Allen and officially presented to the King. "On the following day the King's chaplain was the bearer of the delightful intelligence that the address had been

graciously received, and that the King had said that, 'He thought the Spirit of God must have helped them to express themselves as they had done.'"

"Leipzig, Fourth Month, 30th.

"MY DEAREST L—,

The deeply weighty exercises at Berlin had so much expended all my powers, that I concluded to remain here alone with my maid and our young friend Beyerhaus whilst the rest of our little company went to Dresden. I have had a quiet time and am much refreshed. I enjoy this fine weather. How beautiful is the breaking forth of spring!

"We have been particularly interested in visiting Luther's abode at Wittenberg, being where he was, and sitting where he sat by his table. Though in an old monastery he appears to have had very comfortable apartments. We saw a beautiful painted ceiling in his sitting-room, though now much defaced. I hope you have all read Merle D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, we have found it so very interesting; we expect to visit many of the places mentioned in it, and see the castle in which Luther was confined."

"Frankfort, Fifth Month, 4th.—I felt very unwell yesterday and low in spirits. My dearest brother and sweet niece were most kind to me; all that I required I had; so 'the Lord doth provide.' I almost dreaded my night; but through tender mercy the Comforter was near to comfort and help my great infirmity, so that I rested in my Lord and feel revived in body and soul this morning. This text has been present with me, 'I am the Lord that healeth thee.'—Exodus xv., 26. Such fears presented themselves—How could I get home? How could I bear the sea? Should I not feel much burdened, not having finished what I thought I ought to do? and so on; but now my most gracious and holy Helper delivers me from my fears. Thanks to His most blessed and holy name."

From Dusseldorf they visited "the establishment of Kaiserwerth, under the care of Pastor Fliedner, for training Deaconesses to tend and nurse the sick and to aid their spiritual necessities whilst providing for their temporal wants. At that time this admirable institution had existed only four years, but its utility was generally acknowledged, and information upon the subject earnestly desired. Pastor Fliedner, in furnishing his recollections of the visit says: "

"The 8th of May 1840 was a great holiday to us; Elizabeth Fry of London visited our institution. Of all my contemporaries none has exercised a like influence on my heart and life: truly her friendship was one of the 'all things' which God in sovereign mercy has worked for my good.

"In January 1824, I had had the privilege of witnessing the effects of Mrs. Fry's wonder-working visits among the miserable prisoners of Newgate. On my return to my fatherland my object was to found a society entitled the 'Rhenish Westphalian Prison Association,' having ramifications in all the provinces of Germany. In this I was greatly assisted by the advice and experience afforded me by this eminent servant of God. During my second stay in England, in 1834, I had the happiness, in common with Dr. Steinkopff, of spending a day with Mrs. Fry at her own home, and also of accompanying her in one of her visits of mercy to Newgate. By this means I was enabled to see and admire her in her domestic as well as public character.

"Thus may my happiness be estimated when, in 1840, Mrs. Fry, accompanied by her brother, her young niece, William Allen, and Lucy Bradshaw, came in person to see and rejoice over the growing establishment of Kaiserwerth. She saw the whole house, going into every room, and minutely examining each in detail, and then delivered to the inmates a deeply interesting discourse. Many were the tears

shed, and I have a bright hope not in vain. . . . Truly God was in the midst of us, and the remembrance of that spirit of active, self-denying love is one of the sweetest consolations I possess amid the trials and difficulties which every such institution must afford.

May, 26, 1848.

THOMAS FLIEDNER."

Her own account of their engagements at Dusseldorf bears date May 10th.

"Here we are, and, thanks to my Heavenly Father, I am much revived: my cough better; unfavorable symptoms subsided; sufficient strength given me for the various duties as they arise. I feel my prospect weighty; first going to the prison to visit some prisoners whom I did not see yesterday; and then we expect a large party in the evening to read the Scriptures and for worship,—and this amongst strangers who know little or nothing of us, or our ways, and our interpreter not accustomed to us. But our holy Helper can, through his own unmerited mercy and almighty power, really so help us to touch the hearts of those who come to us, to their true edification. O gracious Lord! be with us, help us and bless us. Thy servants have come in much fear, much weakness, and under a belief that it is Thy call that has brought them here. Now be Thyself present with us, in this, our last occasion of the kind, to our help, consolations and edification! I can only cast myself on Thy love, mercy and pity.

"In the afternoon I visited the prison, accompanied by my dear brother, William Allen and Lucy Bradshaw. We first collected a large number of men in a yard, and I was, in my low state of body strengthened to speak to them in the open air. Unexpectedly a valuable man, the Pastor Fliedner, met us, who interpreted beautifully for me. We then visited several wards, and the prisoners appeared to feel a great deal. May its effects long remain. I also visited a very valuable lady, a Roman Catholic, who has visited

the prison many years. We partook of Christian love, and I believe of Christian unity. In the evening we had a very large party to our reading and worship; I should think nearly a hundred persons. My Lord and Master only knows what such occasions are to me, weak in body, rather low in spirits—amongst perfect strangers to us—not able to speak to them in their own language. To whom could I go? I could say, 'With God all things are possible;' and so I found it. My brother Samuel read the 7th chapter of Matthew. One of the pastors read it in German. I soon spoke, and unexpectedly had to enlarge much on the present state of Germany; how it was that more fruit had not been produced, considering the remarkable seed sown in years past; the query what hindered its growth? I expressed my belief—first that it arose from a lukewarm and indifferent spirit; secondly, from infidel principles creeping in under a specious form; thirdly, from too much superstition yet remaining; fourthly, and above all, from the love of the world and the things of it, beyond the love of Christ. After showing the evil and its results—the seed obstructed, as in the parable of the Sower, bringing no fruit to perfection. I endeavored to find out the remedy—to look at home and not judge one another; to ask for help, protection and direction to walk in the narrow way; to be doers and not hearers of the word; and to devote themselves to His service who had done so much for us. William Allen followed with a satisfactory sermon. I then prayed very earnestly for them and afterwards exhorted on reading the Scriptures. family worship, keeping the Sabbath, &c., and ended with a blessing. The attention was excessive; the interpretation excellent by my dear friend the Pastor Fliedner; hearts much melted, and great unity expressed by numbers. It was a solemn seal set to our labors in this land, and one not to be forgotten. So our Lord helped us and regarded me, His poor servant, in my low estate; afterwards peace was in no common degree my portion. Blessed be the name

of the Lord. All my dear companions, William Allen, my brother, and the younger of the party, my dear niece and Lucy Bradshaw, appeared happy and cheerful. I returned thanks on sitting down to a refreshing meal, after the labors of the day; and I think I may say we ate our 'meat with gladness and singleness of heart.'

The return to England was made in time for the Yearly Meeting of Friends which was held in May, so that the journey lasted about two months and a half.

"*Upton, 19th.*—I attended the first sitting of the Select Meeting yesterday. My lot was to sit in silence. I saw many much loved by me. May my most gracious Lord help me, by His own Spirit, at this Yearly Meeting fully, simply and clearly to lay what I think and feel before this people—that which is right for the aged and more experienced before them, and that which is for the youth before them. Gracious Lord help me to do it in faithfulness, in love, in truth, in deep humility and godly sincerity. Amen.

"We have, altogether, a favorable reply to our letter from the King of Prussia. He justifies the measures pursued towards the Lutherans, but I believe our address will not be in vain. We have had satisfactory reports of the Government already acting on our suggestions respecting the prisons in Prussia. The prisoners are to have more religious instruction and more inspection. I have also had a very interesting letter from the Queen of Denmark expressing regret at our not going there, and not only great desire to see me there, but much unity with my views on many subjects."

The Yearly Meeting proved satisfactory, but no particular account is preserved.

"*Eighth Month, 6th.*—There has been some fear of a war

with France, which has been really sorrowful to me; I could have wept at the thought; so dear are the people of that country to my heart, and so awful is it to think of the horrors of war, whichever way we look at the subject, religiously, morally, or physically. The longer I live and the greater my experience of life, the more decided are my objections to war, as wholly inconsistent with the Christian calling. Oh! may the Almighty grant that through His omnipotence and unutterable love and mercy in Christ our Saviour, the day may not be very far distant when the people shall learn war no more,—when peace and righteousness shall reign in the earth.”

“*Earlham, Eighth Month, 21st.*—My dearest brother Joseph is safely returned home after his absence of three years in America and the West India Islands. I think I never saw any person in so perfectly peaceful a state; he says unalloyed peace, like a sky without a cloud, and above all enabled thankfully to enjoy his many blessings.

“*Twelfth Month, 31st.*—I deeply feel coming to the close of this year, rather unusually so: it finds me in a rather low estate, and from circumstance my spirit is rather overwhelmed although I am sensible that blessings abound, through unmerited mercy. I think the prison cause, at home and abroad, much prospering, many happy results from our foreign expedition, and much doing at home. Among other things the establishment of a Patronage Society for prisoners, by which many poor wanderers appear to be helped and protected, and a Society for the Sisters of Charity to visit and attend the sick.”

The last named institution, the management of which, from the urgency of her numerous engagements was entrusted largely to her sister Elizabeth Gurney, and her daughters, was constituted somewhat in imitation of Pastor Fliedner's Kaiserwerth, and was finally called the “Nursing

Sisters.” Of this Society the Queen Dowager became Patroness and Lady Ingris President, and with an effective committee to conduct the management, it has steadily advanced and prospered. “Their aid in sickness has been sought and greatly valued by persons of all classes, from Royalty to the most destitute.”

Notwithstanding the abundance of home interests and cares, and that her health already began seriously to yield to the constant drain upon her strength, this great-hearted philanthropist, and devoted servant of the Lord, still felt that more work remained for her abroad, whence appeals for aid continued to be received. She “shrank from the great effort of leaving home, and encountering the fatigue of traveling, from the shaken state of her health; her life of exertion and effort had told irremediably upon her vital powers; but it was not because the shades of evening were gathering around her that she would slacken her labors for the good of others. Whilst it was yet day, she desired to work and finish all that her great Master might have for her to do, before the night should come when no man can work.” In view of this new prospect she writes:—

“*Sixth Month.*—I most earnestly desire the direction of my Lord and Master, through the immediate teaching of His Holy Spirit, that I may really know and do His will, and His will only. For Thy name's sake, O Lord! lead me, and teach me. . . .

“*27th, First-day.*—After most deeply weighing the subject, and after very earnest prayer for direction, I felt best satisfied to inform my friends of my belief that it might be right for me to accompany my dearest brother Joseph to the Continent and to visit some of the more northern coun-

tries of Europe. I had very decided encouragement from Friends, particularly the most spiritual amongst them, which I felt helpful to me; but I was surprised at the degree of relief and peace that I felt afterwards, as from a voice before me saying 'This is the way, walk in it.'

"*Seventh Month, 28th, Second-day.*—I had, on Seventh-day, letters from the Queen of Prussia and the Princess William—the first expressing much satisfaction at our proposed visit; our way is clearly open in her heart, and that of the King."

The company on this fourth tour consisted of her brother Joseph John Gurney, his daughter Anna, Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Gurney, and Mrs. Fry's maid. The prospect embraced portions of Holland, Germany, Prussia and Denmark.

The first stop was made at Rotterdam where they had a large party in the evening, and the next day visited the prisons. She remarks, "I find a second visit to a place much better than a first."

They then went to the Hague, and sent their letters to the King from Prince Albert. "On Sixth-day a message came to desire that we would wait upon the King and Queen the next day, at half-past one o'clock, accompanied by Lady Disbrowe, (wife of the British Minister.)

"We remained with the King and Queen and their daughter, the Princess Sophia, about an hour. As rather an interesting event in my life, I mean to tell you (the home circle) particulars of this interview. Before we went we had a solemn, short meeting for worship with our dear and valued friends of this town: afterwards we prepared to go.

"I was decorated in my best garments outwardly, (a neat brown silk dress presented by a son, and a drab silk shawl,

the gift of another of her family,) and I desired so to be clothed with better ornaments spiritually as to render attractive that which I had to recommend. We all felt very weightily our serious engagement, as we had much to represent to the King respecting the West Indies, prisons, and religious education for the people of his own country. The King, a lively, clever, perfect gentleman, not a large man, in regimentals; the Queen, (sister to the Emperor of Russia,) a fine, stately person, in full and rather beautiful morning dress of white; the Princess much the same. After our presentation the King began easy and pleasant conversation with me about my visiting prisons. I told him in a short, lively manner, the history of it. He said he heard I had so many children, how could I do it? This I explained, and mentioned how one of my daughters now helped me in the Patronage Society. He appeared much interested, as did the Queen. I then said my brother had visited the West Indies and would be glad to tell the King and Queen the result of his observations in those islands. This he did capitally, showing the excellency of freedom and its most happy results. He represented also the sad effects of the Dutch enlisting soldiers on the Gold Coast, and how it led to the evil of slavery, which so touched the King that he said he meant to put a stop to it. I then began again and most seriously laid before the King the sad defect of having no religious education in their Government schools, and the Bible not introduced. He said he really felt it, but what could he do when there was a law against it. We then endeavored to explain how we thought it might be obtained. Our very serious conversation was mixed with much cheerfulness. I felt helped to speak very boldly, yet respectfully; so did my brother. I concluded by expressing my most earnest desire that the King's reign might be marked by the prisoners being so reformed that punishment might become the means of the