

in the cottages as well as the palaces there are many faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. This evening we are to hold a meeting for such as can attend at the mansion of the Countess Reden who is like a mother in Israel to rich and poor. We dined at her castle yesterday. I think the palaces for simple country beauty exceed anything I ever saw. The drawing-rooms are so filled with flowers that they are like green-houses, beautifully built, and with the finest views of the mountains. We dined at the Princes William's with several of the Royal Family; the Queen came afterwards. She appeared much pleased with my delight on hearing that the King had stopped religious persecutions in the country, and that several other things had been improved since our last visit. It is a very great comfort to believe that our efforts for the good of others have been blessed—may we be thankful enough for it. Yesterday we paid a very interesting visit to the Queen, then to Prince Frederick of Holland and his Princess, sister to the King of Prussia; with her we had much serious conversation on many important subjects, as we had also with the Queen. Dined early at the Countess Reden's. The Princess William and her daughter, the Princess Mary, joined us in the afternoon, with several others. How delighted you would be with the Countess and her sister; they show the beauty of holiness. Although looked up to by all they appear so humble, so moderate in everything. I think the Christian ladies on the Continent dress far more simply than those in England. The Countess appeared very liberal, but extravagant in nothing. A handsome dinner, but only one sort of wine, and all accordingly. To please us she had apple-dumplings which were thought quite a curiosity, and they really were very nice. The company stood still before and after dinner instead of saying grace.

"*Afternoon.*—We are just returned from Prince William's where we have had a Meeting of a very interesting nature. Many ladies were assembled to meet us that I

might give them some account of my experience in prisons. Your uncle added some account of his journey to the West Indies. We expressed our desire that the blessing of God might be with them. Great love was shown us: indeed they treat me more like a sister than a poor humble individual as I feel myself to be. On our return we met the King: we rather expect he will be at our meeting at the Countess Reden's this evening.

"*Second-day Morning.*—We returned from our interesting Meeting at the Countess's about eleven in the evening. The Royal Family were assembled, and numbers of the nobility; after awhile the King and Queen arrived. The poor Tyroese flocked in numbers. I doubt such a meeting ever having been held before anywhere—the curious mixture of all ranks and conditions. My poor heart almost failed me. Most earnestly did I pray for best help, and not unduly to fear man. The Royal Family sat together, or nearly so; the King and Queen, Princess William, Princess Frederick, Princess Mary, Prince William, Prince Charles, brother to the King, Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, young Prince William, beside many other Princes and Princesses not royal. They began with a hymn in German. Your uncle Joseph spoke for a little while, explaining our views on worship. Then I enlarged upon the changes that had taken place since I was last in Prussia, mentioned the late King's kindness to those poor Tyroese in their affliction and distress: afterwards addressed these poor people, and then those of high rank, and felt greatly helped to speak the truth to them in love. They appeared very attentive and feeling. I also, at the close of my exhortation, expressed my prayer for them. Then your uncle Joseph spoke fully on the great truths of the Gospel, and showed that the prince as well as the peasant would have to give an account of himself to God. In conclusion he expressed his prayer for them. They finished with another hymn. It was a solemn time. We afterwards had interesting con-

versation for about an hour. When the King and Queen were gone we were enabled to pray with the Countess for herself and her sister that all their labors in the Lord's service might be blessed. Now, my much-loved grandchildren, let me remind you that we must be humbled and take up the Cross of Christ if we desire to be made use of by the Lord. 'Him that honoreth me will I honor.' May you confess your Lord before men, and He will then assuredly confess and honor you. I can assure you when surrounded by so many who are willing to hear me, I feel greatly humbled.

"I wish dear Frank to read this as my eldest grandchild and one in whom I take so tender an interest. Indeed, my beloved grandchildren you dwell very near my heart; may the same Holy Spirit who has helped and guided your grandmother, help and guide you!

"May the Lord bless and keep you and raise you up for His own service; for it is a most blessed service. Dearest love to your fathers and mothers: I am

Your most loving grandmother,

E. F."

"It was on this occasion the Princess William gave an account of the great prison at Jauer, and the King expressed a strong wish that Elizabeth Fry should see it, though considerably out of her route. This visit was afterwards accomplished. It proved one of mournful interest. In one cell was a murderer, in another a man of well-known desperate character; they were both most cruelly fettered to prevent their escape through the window. Each was fastened to an iron staple in the floor, with a heavy iron bar across the shoulder, to make any movement irksome. Their condition was afterwards represented by Elizabeth Fry to the King who ordered their chains to be lightened, and commanded that immediate attention should be paid to their health, &c.

"Many of the prisoners on this occasion were assembled in the chapel, when both J. J. Gurney and Elizabeth Fry spoke to them at considerable length. Their addresses were interpreted by the Moravian brother from Buchwald, whose attendance at the prison had been commanded for that purpose."*

Ermsdorf, Ninth Month, 20th.

"This morning we visited the King and Queen after our very interesting Meeting last evening which they attended, at the Countess Reden's; a meeting never to be forgotten. We went with a long document to the King and Queen about the prisoners, and various other subjects. We were received with the utmost kindness and remained with them nearly two hours and a half. We also had a reading of the Holy Scriptures and I prayed for them. We parted in love. . . . I wish I could fully describe the deep interest we have had in this journey, and how marked has been the kindness of Providence towards us in many ways, and how blessed is His service. I certainly think the inhabitants of the mountains of Silesia the most interesting and curious assemblage of persons I ever met with. We, from this place, see those beautiful mountains, the Reisenburg, in their splendor, the morning being very fine and bright; probably the last time I shall ever see them—though the King and Queen begged me to return; but this I never expect to do, for I find the roughs of the journey are, with all my numerous indulgences, far too much for me, and I often feel very nearly ill. I think through all I have seldom had more reason to believe that I have been called to any service."

It soon became evident to both Elizabeth Fry and friends that her lease of strength for this journey was about ex-

* Laid by S. Corder.

hausted, and they turned their steps homeward, arriving at Dover on the 2nd of October, where she was met by her husband "who was little prepared for the debilitated state in which she was brought back to him." Two or three months of rest, however, enabled her again to appear cautiously in public. During this interval of rest she carried on an extensive correspondence and received heart-cheering reports of the results of her labors.

On the 14th of January she records a visit from the distinguished Baron Bunsen, whose son Earnest afterwards married her niece Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Gurney, who had twice accompanied her aunt to the continent.

"We had an interesting visit from the Chevalier Bunsen, (the Prussian Minister,) and his wife, in which I was enabled to relieve my mind, by speaking to him on some weighty subjects, after a solemn Scripture reading and prayer. I felt relieved by it, as I had borne him much in mind, believing him to be a sincere and Christian man."

On the 17th of January, 1842, she attended a dinner at the Lord Mayor's house in London, specially arranged by the Lord Mayor's wife, who was one of her co-adjutors in prison reform, that she might meet Prince Albert and others whose influence would further their objects. Honors and successes had not blinded her eyes to the Source whence all good comes, and as usual she entered upon the work with earnest prayer.

"*First Month, 17th.*—Be pleased, O Lord, to be very near to us this day, and help us to adorn Thy doctrine, and to speak the right thing in the right way, that the Cause of truth, righteousness and mercy may be promoted!

"*18th.*—Through condescending mercy I may say I

found this prayer answered. I had an important conversation on a female prison being built with Sir James Graham, our present Secretary of State; upon the Patronage Society, &c. I think it was a very important beginning with him for our British Society. With Lord Aberdeen, Foreign Secretary, I spoke on some matters connected with the present state of the Continent. With Lord Stanley, our Colonial Secretary, upon the state of our penal colonies, and the condition of the women in them, hoping to open the door for further communication with him on those subjects. Nearly the whole dinner was occupied in deeply interesting conversation with Prince Albert and Sir Robert Peel. With the Prince I spoke very seriously on the Christian education of their children, the management of the nursery, the infinite importance of a holy and religious life; how I had seen it in all ranks of life—no real peace or prosperity without it. Then the state of Europe; the advancement of religion in the Continental courts. Then prisons; their present state in this country—my fear that our punishments were becoming too severe—my wish that the Queen should be informed of some particulars respecting separate confinement, &c., &c. We also had much interesting conversation about my journey, the state of Europe, habits of countries, mode of living, &c., &c. With Sir Robert Peel I dwelt much more on the prison subject. I expressed my fears that gaolers had too much power, that punishment was rendered uncertain and often too severe—pressed upon him the need of mercy, and begged him to see the New Prison, and to have the dark cells a little altered."

A few days after this event the King of Prussia visited London to stand as sponsor to the infant Prince of Wales. During this visit he requested Elizabeth Fry to meet him at the Mansion House where they partook of lunch, pro-

vided by the Lord Mayor, who, at her special request, arranged to have no toasts. At this time the King planned to meet her the following morning at Newgate and afterwards take lunch with her at her home in Upton Lane. Her account of these incidents presents one of the finest episodes in human history.

"*First Month, 29th, (1842.)*—To-morrow the King of Prussia has appointed me to meet him to luncheon at the Mansion House. I have rather felt its being the Sabbath; but as all is to be conducted in a quiet, suitable and most orderly manner, consistent with the day, I am quite easy to go. May my most holy, merciful Lord be near to me as my Helper, my Keeper, and my Counselor. My dearest husband and K— are to go with me. Oh! may my way be made plain before me as to what to do, what to leave undone; when to speak, and when to be silent.

"*30th, First-day.*—I felt low and far from well when I set off this morning for London; but through the tender mercy of my God, soon after sitting down in Meeting I partook of much peace. I was humbled before my Lord in remembrance of days that are past, when I used to attend that meeting (Gracechurch Street) almost heart-broken from sorrow upon sorrow; and I remembered how my Lord sustained me, and made my way in the deep waters. He also raised me up, and then He forsook me not. I was enabled very earnestly to pray to my God for help, direction and preservation.

"After this solemn and refreshing Meeting we went to the Mansion House. We waited sometime in the drawing-room before the King arrived from St. Paul's Cathedral. I have seldom seen any person more faithfully kind and friendly than he is. The Duke of Cambridge was also there, and many others who accompanied the King. We had much deeply important conversation on various impor-

tant subjects of mutual interest. We spoke of the christening. I dwelt on its pomp as undesirable, &c.; then upon Episcopacy and its dangers; on prisons; on the marriage of the Princess Mary of Prussia; on the Sabbath. I entreated the Lord Mayor to have no toasts, to which he acceded, and the King approved; but it was no light or easy matter. I rejoice to believe my efforts were right. I told the King my objection to anything of the kind being allowed by the Lord Mayor on that day; indeed I expressed my disapprobation of them altogether. I may at the end of this weighty day return thanks to my most gracious Lord and Master who has granted me His help and the sweet feeling of His love.

"*Second Month, 1st.*—Yesterday was a day never to be forgotten while memory lasts. We set off about eleven o'clock, my sister Gurney and myself, to meet the King of Prussia at Newgate. I proceeded with the Lady Mayoress to Newgate where we were met by many gentlemen. My dear brother and sister Gurney, and Susanna Corder being with me was a great comfort. We waited so long for the King that I feared he would not come, however at last he arrived and the Lady Mayoress and I, accompanied by the Sheriffs, went to meet the King at the door of the prison. He appeared much pleased to meet our little party and after taking a little refreshment he gave me his arm and we proceeded into the prison and up to one of the long wards where everything was prepared; the poor women round the table, about sixty of them, many of our Ladies Committee and some others; also numbers of gentlemen following the King, Sheriffs, &c. I felt deeply, but quiet in spirit—fear of man much removed. After we were seated, the King on my right hand, the Lady Mayoress on the left, I expressed my desire that the attention of none, particularly the poor prisoners, might be diverted from attending to our reading by the company there, however interesting, but that we should remember that the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

was present, in whose fear we should abide and seek to profit by what we heard. I then read the 12th chapter of Romans. I dwelt on the mercies of God being the strong inducement to serve Him, and no longer to be conformed to this world. Then I finished the chapter, afterwards impressing our all being members of one body, poor and rich, high and low, all one in Christ, and members one of another. I then related the case of a poor prisoner who appeared truly converted, and who became such a holy example; then I enlarged on love and forgiving one another, showing how Christians must love their enemies, &c., &c. After a solemn pause, to my deep humiliation, and in the cross, I believed it my duty to kneel down before this most curious, interesting and mixed company, for I felt that my God must be served the same everywhere, and among all people, whatever reproach it brought me into. I first prayed for the conversion of prisoners and sinners generally, that a blessing might rest on the labors of those in authority, as well as the more humble laborers for their conversion; next I prayed for the King of Prussia, his Queen, his kingdom, that it might be more and more as a city set on the hill that could not be hid; that true religion in its purity, simplicity and power might more and more break forth, and that every cloud that obscured it might be removed; then for us all that we might be of the number of the redeemed, and eventually unite with them in heaven in a never-ending song of praise. I only mention the subject, but, by no means the words. The King then gave me his arm and we walked down together. There were difficulties raised about his going to Upton, but he chose to persevere. I went with the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs, the King with his own people. We arrived first: I had to hasten to take off my cloak and then went down to meet him at his carriage door, with my husband and seven of our sons and sons-in-law. I then walked with him into the drawing-room where all was in beautiful order—neat and adorned with

flowers. I presented to the King our eight daughters and daughters-in-law, (Rachel only away,) our seven sons and eldest grand-son, my brother and sister Buxton, Sir Henry and Lady Pelly, and my sister Elizabeth Fry—my brother and sister Gurney he had known before—and afterwards presented twenty-five of our grandchildren. We had a solemn silence before our meal which was handsome and fit for a King, yet not extravagant—everything most complete and nice. I sat by the King who appeared to enjoy his dinner, perfectly at his ease, and very happy with us. We went into the drawing-room after another solemn silence and a few words which I uttered in prayer for the King and Queen. We found a deputation of Friends with an address to read to him! This was done—the King appeared to feel it much. We then had to part. The King expressed his desire that blessings might continue to rest on our home.”

“*Fourth Month, 17th.*—This week we have a very large sale at the Mansion House for the British Society. Although on the whole I approve these sales there are many difficulties attached to them. I earnestly desire and pray that through the tender mercy of God no harm may come of it; but in whatever we do the cause of truth and righteousness may be exalted.

“*24th.*—On Third, Fourth and Fifth-day we were fully occupied by the sale. It was very largely attended; quantities of things given and sent to us; extraordinary kindness shown to us by numbers, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress treating us with almost unbounded hospitality and kindness. One day they gave dinner and lucheon to three hundred persons, and I should think nearly as many another day or days. We sold things to the amount of about thirteen hundred pounds; still many things were left on hand. When I consider the great trouble, the enormous expense, the time taken up, the obligation we put ourselves under to so many persons, and the fatigue of body, I think

I can never patronise another sale. However in mercy I was carried through without much suffering.

"*Upton, Fifth Month, 8th.*—On Third-day the Lady Mayoress and I paid interesting and satisfactory visits to the Queen Dowager, the Duchess of Kent and the Duchess of Gloucester. I went with my heart lifted up for help and strength and direction, that the visits might prove useful, that I might drop the word in season, and that I might myself be kept humble, watchful and faithful to my Lord. I have fears for myself in visiting palaces rather than prisons, and going after the rich rather than the poor; lest my eyes should become blinded, or I should fall away in anything from the simple pure standard of truth and righteousness. We first called on the Duchess of Kent and had interesting conversation about our dear young Queen, Prince Albert, and their little ones. We spoke of my foreign journey—the King of the Belgians, and other matters. I desired whenever I could to throw in a hint of a spiritual kind, and was enabled to do it. I gave the Duchess some papers with a note to Prince Albert, requesting him to lay the suffering state of the Waldenses, from their fresh persecutions, before the Queen. We next visited the Queen Dowager and her sister, and the Duchess of Saxe Weimar and her children. We had a very satisfactory time, much lively and edifying conversation upon the state of religion in Europe particularly amongst the higher classes, and the great advancement, of late years, in the conduct and conversation of the great of this world."

Her health continuing very infirm, Mrs. Fry spent four months near the sea shore at Cromer, in the company of several of her brothers and sisters, commencing in July. Doubtless her improvement was facilitated by the spirit shown in this entry of her Journal:

"*Cromer, Seventh Month, 6th.*—Here I am, in what was

my dearest sister Hoare's little room, looking on the sea, but poorly after my journey; feeling the air almost too cold for me: but I am favored to be quiet and restful in spirit, and desire to leave all things to Him who only knows what is best for me. My sister Catherine being with us, and my brother Joseph and his Eliza, and my dear Anna, near to us, is very pleasant, and our dear brother and sister Buxton and Richenda being still at Northrepps."

Every week was marked by slow but sure increase of strength. But her amendment was retarded by anxiety on account of a daughter, then very ill in the Isle of Wight. To this daughter who was under much trial she wrote:—

"I am not very well to-day, but have not, by any means lost the ground I had gained, though your trials appear to have brought me some steps back. If, in the ordering of Providence things shall be brighter, I think I shall rally again; but I desire to have my will given up to the will of Him who knows best what is best for us all, and earnestly desire to be very thankful that our trials are not of a deeper dye; and being as far as I know, brought on us by Infinite Wisdom, I do not feel them like those produced by the exquisite suffering of sin.

"I am thy loving, sympathizing and yet hopeful mother,
E. F."

"*Seventh Month, 14th, (First-day.)*—I have deeply and sorrowfully felt our grandson Frank's going into the army. I truly have tried to prevent it but must now leave it all to my Lord, who can, if He sees meet, bring good out of that which I feel to be evil.*

"*Eighth Month, 14th.*—I have felt the weight of undertaking to establish a library and room for the fishermen,

* This young man, being of a serious mind, soon retired from the army.