

and something of a friendly society, as in my tender state the grasshopper becomes a burden. I was encouraged, however, in the night by these words, 'Steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.' In weakness and in strength we must, as ability is granted, always abound in the work of the Lord. May our labor not be in vain in Him! I have had very comforting accounts from Denmark—our representations attended to respecting the prisons, and likely to have much good done in them: also from Prussia. Surely our Lord has greatly blessed some of our poor efforts for the good of our fellow-mortals.

"*Upton Lane, First Month, 1st, 1843.*—Another year is closed and passed never to return. It appears to me that mine is rather a rapid descent into the valley of old age.

"*Second Month, 6th.*—I am just now much devoted to my children and all my family, and attend very little to public service of any kind. May my God grant that I may not hide my talents in a napkin; and on the other hand that I may not step into services uncalled for at my hands. May my feeble labors at home be blessed. Gracious Lord, heal, help, and strengthen Thy poor servant for Thine own service, public or private.

"*Third Month, 19th.*—Met Lord Ashley at dinner at Manor House (my dear son William's) to consider the subject of China and the Opium Trade. Lord Ashley is a very interesting man, devoted to promoting the good of mankind and suppressing evil—quite a Wilberforce I think.

"*Fourth Month, 2nd.*—I entered the last week very low in my condition, bodily and mentally, so much so that some of my family could hardly be reconciled to my attending the Quarterly Meeting. In the Select Meeting of Ministers and Elders the subject of Unity was much brought forward; several spoke to it, and I had to express, rather strongly, my belief that there is a great work going forward in the earth, and Satan desires to mar it by separating the Lord's servants. I warned Friends upon this point; be-

cause there are diversities of gifts, difference of operation and administration, they should not sit in judgment one on another, or condemn one another, or suppose they are not of the same spirit, and one in the same lord, and the same God."

How the ripening tint of that wisdom which is from above shines in these utterances, reaching far beyond the narrow bounds of sect, toward the day of the Lord's coming.

The fifth and last visit of Elizabeth Fry to the Continent was made in the spring of 1843, commencing the latter part of April and ending about the last of May. She felt that there was still important work for her to do in Paris in confirming what had been begun, and strengthening the hands to which it must soon be left. She was accompanied by Joseph John Gurney, who with his new American wife, also a minister, contemplated a more extended journey; and by their faithful friend and co-laborer Josiah Forster. Her eldest daughter Katherine also attended as her mother's especial companion and care-taker. The latter office had now become quite essential, as the veteran apostle and reformer, though but sixty-three years old, had so nearly spent her allotted measure of strength that it was doubted after the voyage to Bologne, whether she would be able to proceed on the journey. However by using the best medicine, prudence, patience and faith, she revived and slowly advanced by way of Amiens, where they held a Meeting for worship in a room used by the few Protestants as their chapel. Their pastor was eighty years of age.

"At Clemont-en-Oise the ladies were permitted to inspect the Great Central Prison for women, calculated to contain

twelve hundred, although nine hundred only were in confinement when they were there. It was under the charge of a Supérieure and twenty-two nuns, no men being allowed to enter.

"On first arriving Mrs. Fry had expressed a great wish to see all the nuns, but the Supérieure considered it impossible, as they never leave the women; however just before quitting the prison, she was conducted into an apartment around which sat, some on chairs, some on extremely low seats, some apparently on the floor, the twenty-two nuns in their grey dresses, and the lay sisters in black; placed in the middle were Mrs. Fry and her sister Mrs. Joseph John Gurney, the Supérieure between them, holding Mrs. Fry by the hand, whose daughter was requested by the Supérieure to interpret for them. It was no light or easy task to convey exactly her mother's address on the deep importance of not only maintaining good discipline amongst the prisoners, but endeavoring to lead them in living faith to Christ as the only Mediator between God and man, through whom alone they could be cleansed from the guilt and power of sin. At His name every head bowed. She then went on to tell them of Newgate, and the effects of the Gospel there. Many tears were shed at this recital. She concluded by a lively exhortation to these devoted nuns whom she could 'salute as sisters in Christ,' to go forward in their work, but in no way to rest upon it as in itself meritorious. Here the Supérieure interposed 'Oh non mais il y a un peu de mérite, l'homme a quelque mérite pour ce qu'il fait:' an old nun who understood English rejoined, 'Ma mère, Madame thinks that if the love of God does not sufficiently animate the heart to do it without feeling it a merit, or desiring reward, it falls short.' 'Ah c'est bien! comme elle est bonne!' replied the Supérieure. Mrs. Fry concluded by a short blessing and prayer in French. It was a striking scene and a solemn feeling pervaded the whole."*

* Memoir—Vol. 2, page 471.

Arriving in Paris Elizabeth Fry felt much depressed by her weakness, but was met with warm welcome and encouragement from her friends, especially the Countess Pelet who assured her that her visit was most timely. They attended the little Friends' Meeting in the Faubourg du Roule, made some social visits, and called on the Duchess of Orleans and her pious stepmother the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburgh. The second Sabbath they held a large public meeting in the Methodist chapel, and on Monday evening met a party of "about thirty persons of color, chiefly from Hayti, the Island of France, and Guada'oupe, principally students of law or medicine; one a painter who had some good pictures in the exhibition. . . . Wednesday was a dinner at Count Pelet de la Lozère's; Thursday at M. Guizot's. Seated by their celebrated host, the dinner was felt by Mrs. Fry to be an occasion of great responsibility. She was encouraged by his courteous attention unreservedly to speak to him on the subjects which had so long been near to her heart. It was no common ordeal for woman weak even in her strength to encounter reasoning powers and capabilities such as his: their motives of action arising probably from far different sources, but curiously meeting at the same point; hers from deep-rooted benevolence directed by piety in its most spiritual form; his from reflection, observation, and statesman-like policy guided by philanthropy, based on philosophy and established conviction—yet in the aggregate the results the same; an intense desire to benefit and exalt human nature, and arrest the progress of moral and social evil, and an equal interest in ascertaining the most likely methods of effecting the de-

sired end. They spoke of crime in its origin, its consequences, and the measures to be adopted for its prevention; of the treatment of criminals; of education, and of Scriptural instruction. Here Mrs. Fry unhesitatingly urged the diffusion of Scriptural truth, and the universal circulation of the Scriptures, as the one means alone capable of controlling the power of sin, and shedding light upon the darkness of superstition and infidelity.

"The following morning Mrs. Fry and her brother received at their hotel a large party of Greeks; amongst others their Ambassador, M. Coletti. The Duke de Broglie was kind enough to interpret for Mrs. Fry. Before the party separated Mr. Gurney read an account of St. Paul's visit to Athens: his comments on this portion of Holy Writ were *luminous, powerful*, and appropriate.

"When in Paris in 1839, Mrs. Fry had become interested in a large party of Greeks who met her at her hotel one evening. On the present occasion that interest was confirmed. The want of books in Greece, even those of elementary instruction, was fully discussed, and it was decided to form some regular plan to supply this want. That this might be done effectually a second evening was appointed for the purpose. There were assembled on this occasion several very superior men, among others M. de Commène, who, though not 'born in the purple,' was one of a family recognized as lineally descended from the Emperors of Constantinople. A committee of Greeks, French and English was formed to draw up rules and endeavor to raise subscriptions, though not till after much animated discussion,—the young Greek students in Paris undertaking to

translate some works of elementary instruction. A spelling book with pictures was to be the first work attempted—something not existing in that country. There was reason to expect that through influence with the Government at Athens these books would be dispersed into every Commune for the use of the schools and poor. Mrs. Fry had before been interested on the subject of female education in Greece, and in this important movement for supplying that country with elemental literature, she believed that the women also would eventually partake of the benefit.

"It being the period of the annual religious Meetings many pasteurs were assembled in Paris: about thirty of them were invited by Mr. Gurney to breakfast at the Hotel Meurice." (Memoir.)

"*Paris, Fifth Month, 14th.*—On Second-day about thirty pasteurs came to breakfast: they are from different parts of France; a very interesting set of men. First we had a Scripture reading; Joseph and myself had much to express to them at the time; a most weighty concern it was. My brother prayed and one of the pasteurs spoke. We then breakfasted, and had really a delightful meal. I remember that our Lord condescended to attend feasts, and this was a feast offered to His servants, of which we partook in love and peace. The pasteurs afterwards gave us an account of the religious state of the people around them, a good work certainly appears going on, amidst many obstructions. We then spoke to them. I particularly recommended *religious unity with all who love the Lord*, as a valuable body of Christians."

Observe how "UNITY WITH ALL WHO LOVE THE LORD," is becoming the key-note of her exhortations.

"*Paris, Fifth Month, 21st, (First-day.)*—My birth-day—

sixty-three! My God hath not forgotten to be gracious, nor hath He shut up His tender mercies from me.

"The last week has been an interesting one. We were sent for by the King. My brother, sister and I paid rather a remarkable visit to him, the Queen, and Princess Adelaide. To my surprise and pleasure yesterday there arrived from the Queen a most beautiful Bible with fine engravings, without note or comment; given me as a mark of her satisfaction in our visit."

"One evening the Prime Minister, M. Guizot, dined with Mrs. Fry's party. The topics before discussed were then resumed:—the state of Protestants in France, La liberté de culte, and Negro Slavery. Elizabeth Fry entreated M. Guizot's attention to the state of the Sandwich Islands. She had a few months before received from Kamehameha III., the King of those islands, a letter entreating her good offices to second his endeavors to prohibit the importation and use of spirituous liquors in his kingdom, the baneful and demoralizing effects of which he stated to be lamentable.

"Much had been done for the improvement of prisons since Mrs. Fry was last at Paris. The importance of the subject had been fully recognized, and a bill brought before the chamber of Deputies."

The concluding memoranda of the farewell visit will enable us to see her very pleasantly in her favorite occupations. Nearly all of her own minutes in this connection have been given.

"*Boulogne, 28th*—Through the condescending mercy of our Heavenly Father we are safely and peacefully arrived here, after a quiet journey with my dearest Katherine. We were near meeting with a serious accident, but through mercy we escaped without injury. Our leaving Paris was no common occasion. The morning before, several of our

beloved friends were with us; they literally loaded us with presents; indeed it appeared as if they did not know how to show their love to us enough. Before we parted from each other we had a most solemn time in prayer, little knowing whether we should see each other's faces more. I hardly knew how to accept all their generous kindness. What can we say but that their hearts being thus turned to us must be 'the Lord's doing and is marvelous in our eyes.'

"The previous evening many of our dear friends, English and French, came to take leave of us; we read together the 121st Psalm. In the morning I visited a Roman Catholic Refuge, and finished well with the Greeks in the afternoon.

"On Third-day we visited the great military prison at St. Germain, accompanied by a French general, an English colonel, our excellent friend Count Pelet, and Moreau Christophe. We were received very kindly by the Colonel, Governor of the Prison, and his wife, and took our *déjeuné* with them.

"In the evening we went to a large Meeting in one of the Faubourgs with the French Methodists in humble life. How curious the changes of my daily life!—what a picture they would make!—in the morning surrounded by the high military, and the soldier prisoners—in the evening in a Methodist Meeting-house, with the people and their pastors, and afterwards by poor little French children hearing them read.

"Another day I was at a large Prison Committee of Protestant ladies. I think they have been greatly prospered in their work of Christian love, in which they have persevered ever since my first visit to Paris; there have been many instances of great improvement in the prisoners under their care. After prayer for them I left them.

"The afternoon of the Sabbath I paid a distressing visit to the St. Lazarre Prison; such a scene of disorder, and deep evil I have seldom witnessed—gambling, romping,

screaming. With much difficulty we collected four protestant prisoners and read with them. I spoke to those poor disorderly women, who appeared attentive and showed some feeling. I have represented to many in authority the sad evils of this prison, and have pleaded with them for reform, for religious care, and for Scriptural instruction.

"In the evening the dear Countess Pelet was with us and we had a large assembly, mostly of English; it was thought ninety, or a hundred. I was tired and poorly, my flesh and my heart ready to fail; but the Lord strengthened me, and I felt really helped by a power quite above myself. With this company I had a most satisfactory parting time, and a sweet feeling of love and unity with these servants of the Lord."

Thus ended the missionary labors, abroad, of this devoted minister of Mercy, the fruit of whose sowing has continued to yield its increase all over Europe. The party returned home in season to attend the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London and for a short time Mrs. Fry was able "to encounter the current of life better than she had done before her journey."

During these five visits to the Continent what an expenditure of the highest moral force had Elizabeth Fry made: and it is easy to believe that little or none of the good seed sown, even when the ground seemed least propitious, failed to bring forth fruit; while in many instances it not only sprang up quickly, but yielded its thirty, sixty, or hundred fold in time for the sower and reaper to rejoice together, and praise the Lord of the harvest who alone "giveth the increase." And beyond the more immediate effects who can compute the compound results, as each generation has taken up and added to the work, and to the area where

these influences have operated to redeem the fallen, to ameliorate the consequences of evil, and to add courage and strength to human efforts for the elevation of the race?