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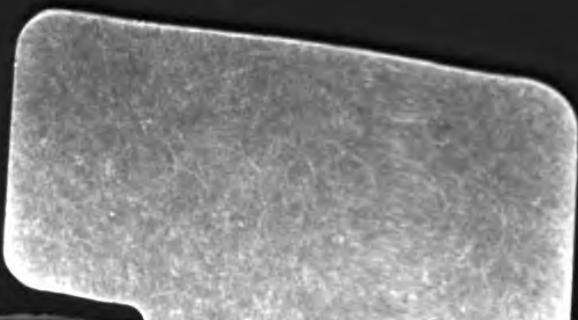


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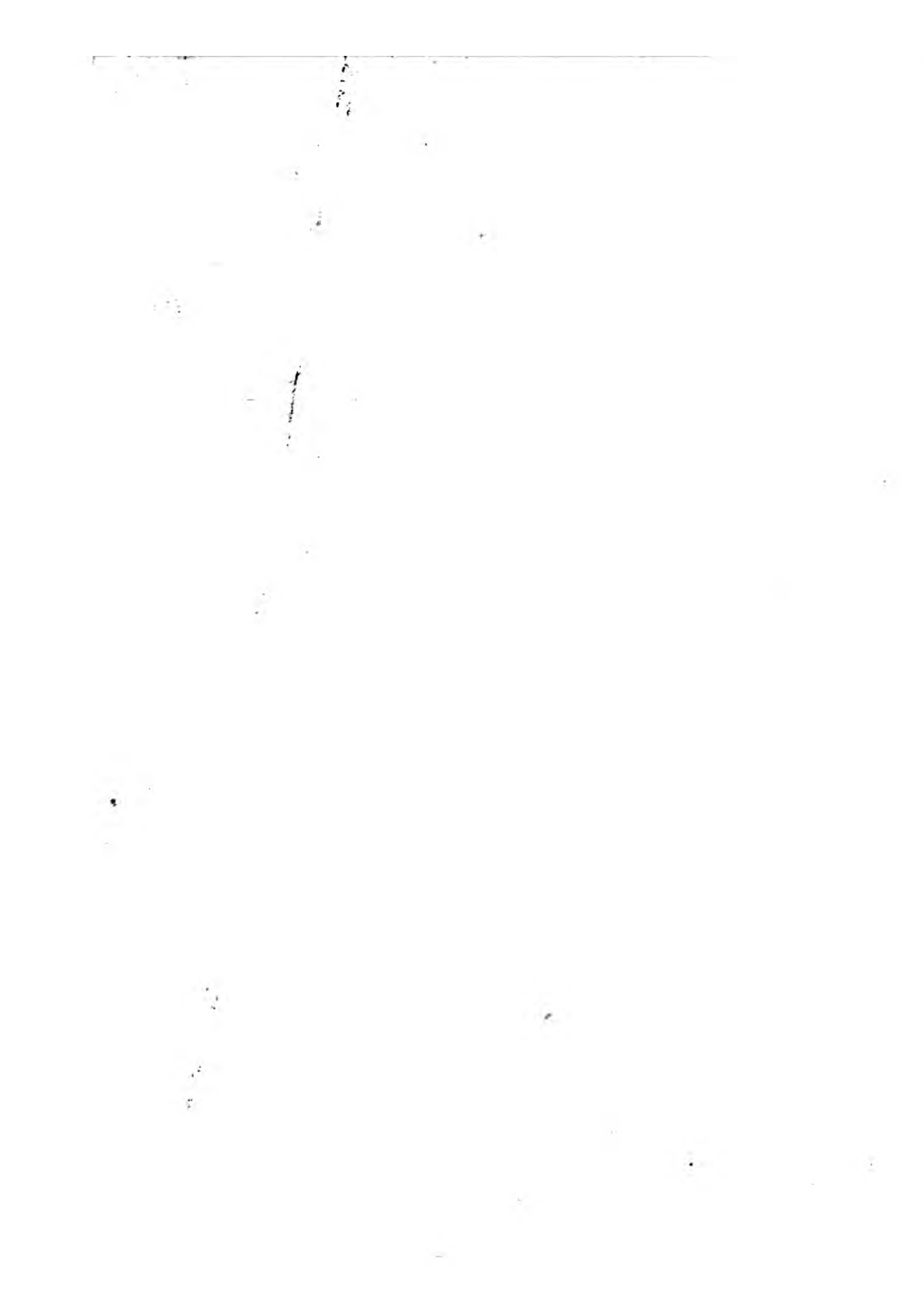




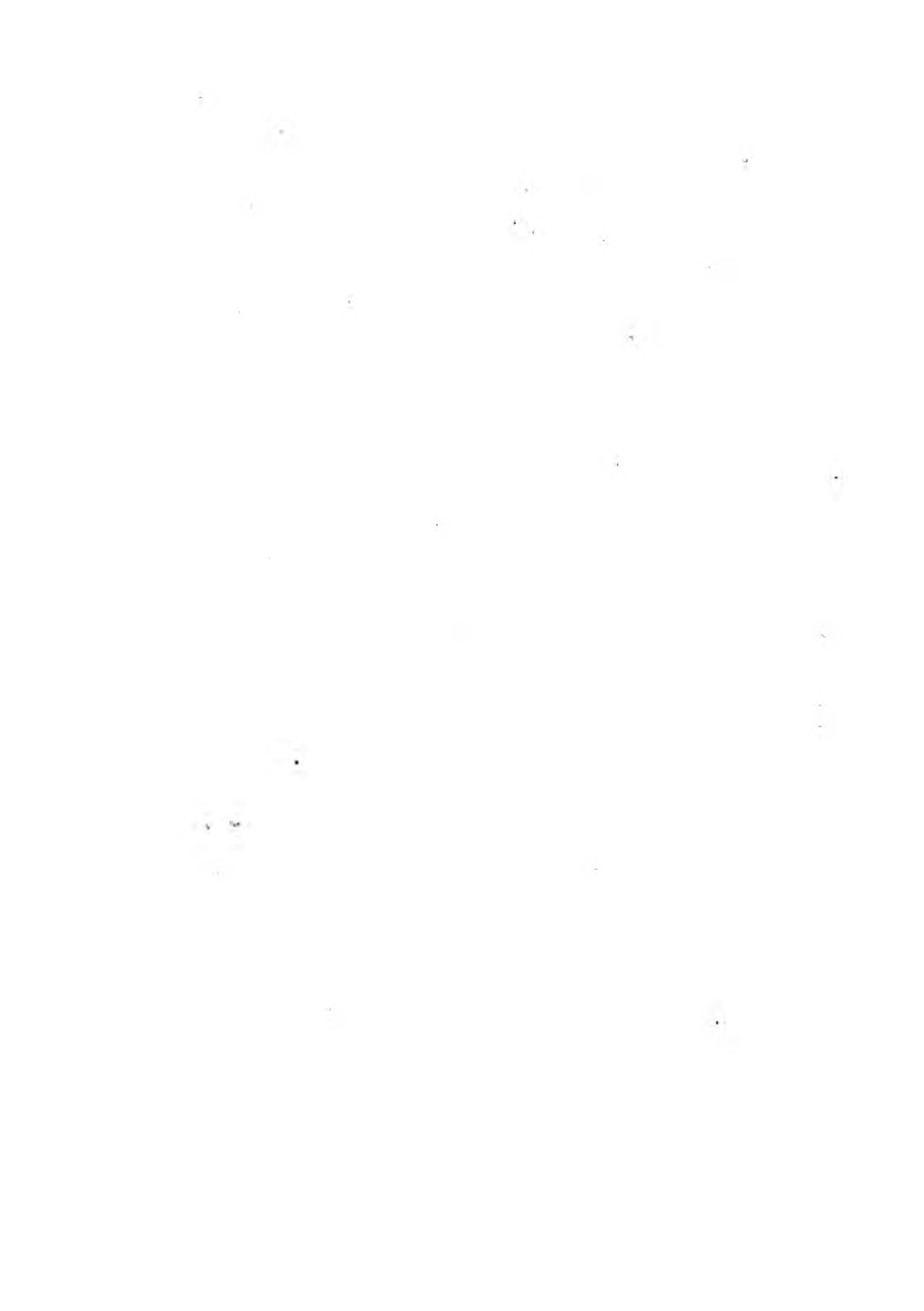
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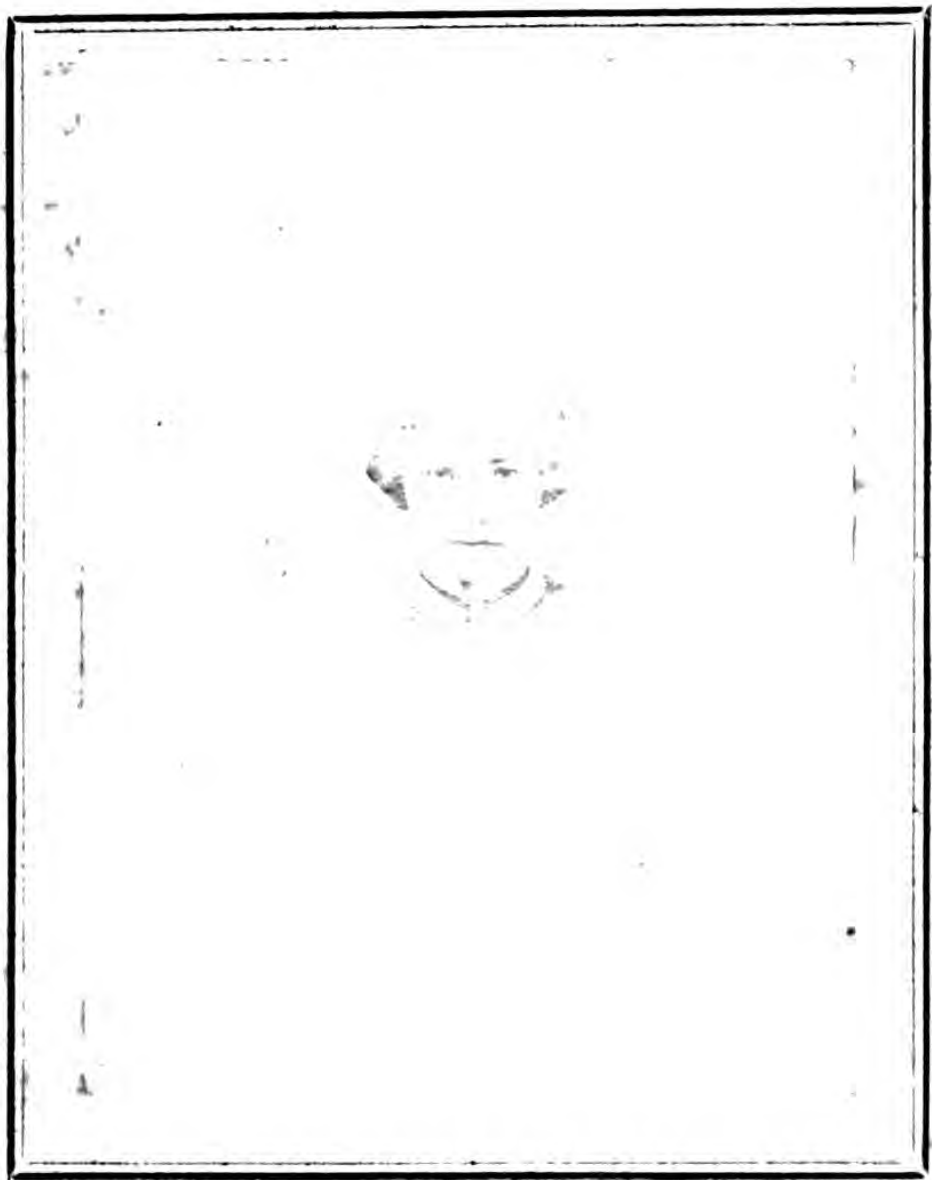


**FIRST-FRUITS UNTO THE LORD.**









# First-Fruits unto the Lord.

A Memorial of C. B.,

A BIBLE-WOMAN OF ST. ALBAN'S.

BY

THE REV. HENRY SMITH, M.A.,

INCUMBENT OF CHRIST CHURCH, ST. ALBAN'S.

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In this brief narrative of E. R.'s conversion, growth in grace, usefulness in life, sickness, and early departure to her rest, references occur to the Compiler, more prominently than either his judgment or taste approve; they are, however, so closely interwoven with the narrative, as to render a separation difficult, without impairing the integrity and interest of the little work.



## First Fruits unto the Lord.

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TRULY says the writer of "The Spirit in the Word" (speaking of the Bible)—

"If this Book has not done in the world the works which no other book has done;—if it has not effected changes in man's moral character, awakening, enlightening, informing his conscience in a way which no other book has;—if it has not preserved in their integrity, sustained in their obedience, and upheld amidst all their difficulties and trials the people of the Book,—then would men be less guilty in despising and rejecting it."

"The power which accompanies the Word of God must be the great standing proof of its own Divine origin."—If this be true, then we should not willingly let slip from memory one

of the numerous instances by which God "has magnified His Word above all His name."—It is to rescue from oblivion one of such memorable and blessed proofs of the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that this little sketch of E. R. is compiled, and with the hope that its perusal may be the means of blessing to many souls, to whom, "though now dead, she still speaketh."

E. R. first heard the Word of God with awakening power, at some services held on Sunday evenings, in 1859, in the London Road School-room, at St. Alban's. A sermon on Sunday evening, Feb. 6th, from John iv. 29 : "Come see a man that told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" seemed to make a deep impression on her mind; but she often referred more especially to one preached a month later, from the tenth and eleventh verses of St. Paul's Epistle to Philemon: "I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me."

It is interesting to observe how the Lord carries on His work in the world, from one to another. The conversion of St. Paul led, among

many other fruits of his ministry, to the conversion of Philemon and Onesimus ; and this letter to Philemon, respecting the conversion of Onesimus, read and expounded to a village congregation in a schoolroom at Holbrook, Suffolk, in 1854, led to the awakening of one who still lives, the writer trusts, to adorn the doctrine of God her Saviour by a Christian walk and conversation ; again, the mention of this person's conversion in connection with the Epistle to Philemon led, under the Spirit's blessing on the Word, to the awakening to spiritual life of her, whose brief but bright course on earth he would now endeavour to keep in memory.

From the time above mentioned, E. R. became anxious about her soul, earnestly inquiring the way of pardon and peace. Those who only knew her after she had experienced the renewing grace of God, during the few last years of her life, can with difficulty realize that she was once walking even as others, in the vanity of their mind. Such however, is the testimony of one who worked with her, and who watched with interest and prayerful solicitude the first movements of spiritual life in her, and rejoiced

in her seeking for pastoral counsel and advice, after hearing the sermons before mentioned.

A few words from a note received about that time, will show something of the state of her mind :—

“Sir,—I feel that religion is a matter so much between my own soul and God that I cannot tell much of my feelings to others. I should like to be among the people of God, for I love to read and hear His holy Word far better than any other book, and it often teaches me the way when I could not ask any one; but I feel I want the peace of God.”

That peace with God was not sought for in vain: the time came when she was led to rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The very day was marked in her case, as I may show from her own letters afterwards.

It was her custom to enter the texts which she heard preached from in a note book, and there are sometimes added interesting notices and remembrances of the sermons which she heard from Sabbath to Sabbath. This book is now before me, but I will not permit myself to make quotations from it, as it would increase

too much the size of this little sketch, otherwise they would testify what a diligent and attentive hearer she was of the Word preached, during the subsequent years of her life.

Christ Church, St. Alban's, was not opened at the time of the Schoolroom Services before mentioned, but was Consecrated April 18th of that same year, by the late Bishop (Villiers) of Durham, who officiated in consequence of the illness of the then Bishop of the Diocese; and from the time that this Church was opened, till her departure to a better worship above, there was no more regular attendant at the Services than E. R., or at the Lord's Table, after her first attendance there. It was not, however, at first that she found peace, but I find the time thus noted in my journal, and also in her own letters, from which I quote, afterwards:—"June 2nd, 1859. (Ascension Day.) Preached in the evening, from the last verses of St. Luke's Gospel:— 'And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.' Through this sermon E. R. was led to peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."



Yes, E. R. could now in some measure share in the joy of the Disciples, and I will simply quote what I find written down two days after:—

“ June 4th. One of my congregation has just been to tell me that after the Thursday evening Service she was led to believe in her ascended Saviour. After being much in prayer that evening, she said, ‘she awoke in the morning feeling assured that her soul was bathed in His precious blood. As many as twelve passages of Scripture came to her mind one after another, on which she felt that she could rest.’ Several times she has been seeking advice. ‘What must I do to be saved?’ has been her earnest inquiry, having first heard the Word with an awakening effect upon her soul in February last: and now she felt that she must tell me that she had found joy and peace in believing, and could say with her heart the words of which we spoke when she last called to see me:—

‘ My God is reconciled!  
His pardoning voice I hear ;  
He owns me for His child,  
I will no longer fear.  
With confidence I now draw nigh,  
And Father ! Abba Father ! cry.’

“O shall we not give the praise which is due to our blessed Saviour, for this and every fresh evidence of His ever living to save and to send down the Comforter, to guide seeking souls into the way of truth and peace!”

Each year, as the time came round when the Lord thus revealed Himself to her, E. R. would make some mention of His goodness, either by calling to ask me to unite with her in prayer and praise, or by writing a few lines referring to her conversion.

I may here insert a short extract from a letter received in April, 1862 :—“Dear Sir,—It is now nearly three years since you first spoke to me about my never-dying soul. O I shall never forget that time. ‘Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless and praise His Holy Name,’ for sparing me to that time, for O I might have been where mercy never comes; but ‘God who is rich in mercy, of His great love wherewith He loved us,’ met me then and showed me my danger. Dear Sir,—I would try and thank you, if I could, for your love and care for my soul; but if I were to thank you thousands of times, it would not repay you for

your kindness to me: but I thank God there is a day coming, when I know you will be repaid for all your trouble, when the Lord shall say to every faithful servant, "enter thou into the joy of thy Lord . . . . and when he that soweth and he that reapeth shall rejoice together."

How touching is the gratitude here manifested! I may here also quote from another letter, which refers to the day of her obtaining peace to her soul. It was written after E. R. had began her work as a Bible-woman in the town, and the first part has reference to some meetings that had been held previously, to rescue young women from a life of sin.

"June 4th, 1864. Dear Sir,—Please to pardon the liberty I have taken in writing to you, not finding you to-day at the Parsonage. I have received a letter from one of the young women that went to one of the Homes. H. wants a situation, if some one would take her. Poor girl! I hope some one will be found willing to do so,—and oh may the Lord seek her out and help her to seek Him, and walk in that strait and narrow path which leadeth to life. Dear Sir,—these were some of the first words you said to

me, and oh, how thankful I am, the Lord sent you here to say them to me. It is rather more than five years ago since you first spoke them to me, but it is just five years to day, since I came to tell you that God had spoken peace to my soul. O how happy I felt then; but you told me that I must not expect to be so happy always, for I had a warfare to fight; and *that* I had not thought about: but very soon I found that I had one indeed to fight, for 'the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.' Dear Sir,—I felt to-day that I should have liked you to have prayed with me once more, and to have thanked the Lord for His goodness and mercy toward me: but I feel sure you do pray for me, that the Lord will keep me from the evil that is in the world. Now may the Lord be with you, and abide with you for ever, and bring you safely back again to us, to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ."

It is a very great happiness to a pastor, to be able to watch and seek to cherish the early workings of Divine grace in the heart, especially of the young. How cheering to mark the shining light of the Christian waxing brighter and

brighter to the perfect day ; to witness what the truth as it is in Jesus can effect, in a heart naturally vain and foolish even as others, when applied by the Holy Spirit, producing faith, holiness, humility, gratitude, and love.

E. R. was not blown about by every wind of doctrine, but the spiritual impulse she received at the time of her conversion never left her. Soon after the Church was opened, she became a Teacher in the Sunday School, and she began to attend a Bible-class on Sunday afternoons for young women, conducted in the first instance by her Pastor's wife, and afterwards by another lady, and continued up to the present time, from which not a few besides E. R. have derived much help and instruction. And here let me recommend a practice by which many Christian ladies might, in their several parishes, render great assistance to their minister, and be the means of blessing to many young women,—viz., by holding a Bible reading at their own houses, on Sunday afternoons or evenings.

But, to revert to E. R. I shall now introduce a few extracts from a letter dated Nov. 4, 1859, which will serve to show her profiting under the

Word preached, after her conversion, and the fellowship she enjoyed with her Lord and Saviour:—

“Dear Sir,—I hope it is not too great a liberty which I have taken, to write a few lines to you, for I have thought I should like to do so, since last Sunday week.—The sermon in the morning, from Hebrews xiii. 8,—‘Jesus Christ the same yesterday, to day and for ever,’ filled me with much peace of mind, and I trust that I thanked God sincerely for it; for I felt sure it was His Holy Spirit applying the words to my heart,—or, if I may say so, more like Himself speaking to me. Oh what sweet words they are to me! for my mind had been rather upset for two or three weeks. I had been thinking, if I could have lived with a religious family I could serve God more, and I thought I should not see so much of the world and its evils; but my mind is at ease about that now, which I am very thankful for. I am afraid my health would not have allowed me to have stopped, so that I will leave it to Him ‘who doeth all things well.’ Oh for more faith to trust in Him,—for THAT was what I wanted,—and to think that He will be ever

with me and protect me, be where I may. Oh that I may grow more like my blessed Saviour, every day, and be more humble, and be weaned more from this world. Oh that I may be like Mary, ever at my Saviour's feet; and that I may be constantly washing in that fountain which can cleanse me from all guilt; and drinking of that living water, so that I may never thirst; and that I may be building all my hopes on Christ, and living as if I had nothing, and yet possessing all things in Him. Dear Sir,—I have many things to thank you for, but I will only mention one now, and that is,—when we have met together on Saturday evenings, you have prayed for us and our friends, and I thought it very kind of you praying for mine, . . . . . that my . . . . . may be brought to Christ. This is my sincere prayer for him; and may you ever remember me in your prayers.—From one who was led to think of Christ by you, Sir.—E. R.”

Here we see *that earnest concern* for near and dear relatives, which is ever found to follow real conversion of heart to God.

And among requests for Prayer, which were

sent in at the United Prayer Meetings held during some months of that year and the following, I find some evidently in her handwriting. This is one: "Dear Sir,—Will you be so kind as to pray for my . . . . to be brought to Christ, for I know that he is a great sinner; but I pray that he may be forgiven, and I hope that all Christian friends will join in and pray for him."

It is interesting, in connection with this desire for the spiritual good of her relatives, to notice an entry at the beginning of the following year, in a Journal then kept:—"Jan. 1860, E. R. called, and told me of the hopeful change of one or more under the same roof with herself, and of their having had their first family prayer together, and of having continued to meet for the purpose morning and evening through the past week."

I had just copied this from my Journal, when a note was brought in from a young person connected with the Bible-class; and, as it relates to this time, I will insert it. "Dear Sir,—I send you this on the death of E. R., for I have known her for the last four years and a half, and the first place that she spoke to me, was at a Prayer Meet-



ing. She was the first person that spoke to me concerning the salvation of my immortal soul. I feel it is a great loss that she is taken from us. But it is her gain, and I hope to meet ere long in the world of bliss, where tears will be wiped from every eye. When I was with E., I felt that I was with one of God's people, and it was a great help to me at all times. I remember one Thursday evening in particular, she spoke very solemnly to me on death:—If death were to come that night, how would it find us? She told me she hoped I would pray to Him who was able to carry me through all temptations. Many have been *her prayers* on my behalf. It was her great desire for me after Confirmation, to go to the Lord's Supper. She said, she was sure that if I went, Christ would meet me there. I cannot express in words the consolations I have received from her, but can only thank God for sending me such a kind teacher."

This is one instance of many, showing how some of the elder girls at Christ Church School were led to be anxious about their souls, through the efforts of E. R. Several members of the Monday evening Bible-class would say the same.

Here is another testimony received since her death. "June 30th, 1865. My dear Pastor,— I cannot let this solemn event pass without telling you how grieved I felt when I heard that our dear friend was taken from us. I shall miss her very much, especially when I come to your Bible-class; for she so much wished me to come when I could be spared, and used to say, 'I am so glad you could come to-night.' She would walk home with me, and I can truly say I never felt happier with any other friend, than when I could be with her. She did me so much good, that I used to long to be where she was,—to hear more of her sweet good advice. I regret that I have not for some time been able to speak to her; but on coming to Church she would and did give me her best and most welcome smile, and when near enough, she would take my hand and say, 'I am so glad you are here.' I cannot find words enough to tell all the good she has done me. I hope you will not think me too troublesome, as I could not feel happy until I had told you; for I know that you truly sympathise with all. I sincerely hope I may be found prepared as

she was, and my last end be like hers.—I remain," etc.

In October 1860, E. R. with some of the Bible class began a Prayer Meeting among themselves, meeting in one of their parents' houses one week, and the next in another. This Wednesday evening meeting has been kept up, I believe to the present time, and has been of much *comfort to the aged*, as well as encouragement to the young. In 1861, one of this little company who had recently become anxious about her soul, and for the first time partaken of the Lord's Supper at the end of July, was seized with serious illness in August. She did not wish to recover. E. watched by her at night, and, thinking her end was near, and that she was too ill to speak, she bid her put up her hand, if she felt assured that her soul was safe through Jesus. She lifted up her hand with a smile of joy saying,—“Yes!” with much emphasis. The next day, when told that the doctor gave up all hope, her face brightened up, and she said,—“I am so glad he owns to it now! How long will it be, before I see my Saviour, do you think?” And speaking of the Lord's Supper, she said,

—“I am so glad that I have been once on earth.” She asked E. R. to read to her one night where “the voice said, cry.” After a little while her companion found it was the passage in Isaiah she wished for,—“All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field.” She said to the writer, “O do warn them,—the young especially; sickness is no time for the great work.” She spoke to her brothers and sisters, showing the concern she felt for them, and the simplicity of her faith in Jesus. It pleased the Lord that she should so far recover, after months of illness, as to come once again to the House of God; but the power of the disease returned, and she died of consumption, May 1862. Thus was the first of the little band removed;\* but it showed how useful E. R. would be as a District Visitor; and a

\* I find in a note book of E. R.,—“May, 1862. Dear Emily W—— died. Nearly the last to join us, but was taken away the first: only three months in health to serve God, and nine months sore afflicted in body, and much of that time in doubts and fears as to her soul’s salvation; but we trust that her name was written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, and that in the morning of the resurrection she will awake up in the likeness of Christ.”

most devoted parochial helper did she prove, from the time that she was so employed, though she continued for some time longer also working for her own livelihood.

In 1862, having been laid aside by ill-health, (absent from home for a few weeks, at the seaside and on the Continent), on my return, I found this note from E. R.—“June, 1862. Dear Sir and Pastor,—I trust you will forgive my writing to you. The Lord has brought you back again to us, to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ; and oh may it be applied with power of the Holy Spirit to all their hearts who shall hear it, sink deep, and take root, and bring forth fruit unto everlasting life. Dear Sir,—I could not help being grieved about your illness, but the Lord knows what is best for His people, and although He has put you in the fires, yet I know that He will not suffer you to be burnt; for Jesus stands by the furnace, and He will not put upon you more than you are able to bear, and He says,—‘My grace is sufficient for thee,’ and ‘as many as I love I rebuke and chasten,’ and ‘our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and

eternal weight of glory.' 'The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms' to support you in all your weakness; and may the Lord strengthen you, both in body and soul! Oh may your soul be filled with love to Christ, and may the presence of Christ be ever shining in your soul! Oh may the Lord spare you a long time, if it be His will, to work in His vineyard! Oh may you be an instrument in God's hands in bringing many souls to glory! Oh may the Lord bless you, and keep you unto everlasting life! May the Lord bless you in your work and labour of love; and unto God be all the praise, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen." After these kind expressions of interest in her minister's welfare and work, she recalls the season when the Lord first gave her to rejoice in His salvation, and then continues:—  
"But alas! dear Sir, I must tell you, and I think it is with sorrow, that I fear I have but very little grown in grace, and sometimes I feel almost ready to think not any at all; for I have such an evil heart within, that is so full of sins of every kind, pride, deceit, self-righteousness, and ignorance,—and oh, many more which I

have not mentioned, for it is full of such evils ; there is so much of the old man and so little of the new. O most merciful Saviour, 'purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean : wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow !' 'Clothe me in Thy spotless robe of Righteousness, and present me faultless before Thy Father's throne with exceeding joy.' But oh, my spiritual privileges are very great, and my practice is very, very low ! Those words ring in my ears,— 'And thou Capernaum which art exalted unto heaven shall be brought down to hell !' Solemn words !—O blessed Saviour ! take what thou wilt away, but take not Thyself away ? Do what thou wilt with me, but do save my soul, and number me with Thy saints, and bring me to Thy everlasting kingdom, for Thy own Name's sake ! Dear Sir,—may I ask you again to pray for me, that the Lord may keep me in the strait and narrow path which leadeth unto life, and that I may 'work while it is called to-day, for the night cometh when no man can work.' Dear Sir,—forgive this complaining letter, for I thought I should like to tell you a little of my mind. I hope I have not tired you with this

long letter ; and do tell me, please Sir, if I have written anything wrong ; for I know it would be with love to my soul that you would tell me. From one who was brought to Christ through you, dear Sir.—E. R.”

We may observe from this letter how very lowly was her estimate respecting herself. The foundation of the practical difference between the believer and the unbeliever lies in this. To the believer, the sin that dwelleth in him is a matter of anxiety ; while to the unbeliever too often it is not so. Taught by the Spirit of God, the believer in Jesus sees how hateful a thing sin is in God’s sight, and how injurious to the soul itself : hence is such an one filled with deep concern about sin, and God’s children are often prone to write bitter things against themselves, while the Lord is saying,—“Is not Ephraim a dear son? Is he not a pleasant child?” “The children of God see sin ;” it has been well observed,—“where the natural man cannot see it, or cares not about seeing it ; and often the great Adversary tries so to make use of recollected sins and discovered sins, as to keep up or create a separation be-



tween the soul and God." We must take heed therefore lest the sense of sin should act as a drag upon the soul ; for if it prevent our approaching God through Jesus Christ, we shall sink in the cheerless depths of unbelief.

It was living near to Christ which made sin appear to E. R. so hateful. And thus it will ever be,—though the believer in Jesus may at the same time lift up his head and view the whole debt cancelled from the book of remembrance, and hear the gracious words,—“sin shall not have dominion over you, because you are not under the law but under grace.” But sometimes while we are being led to have dealings with the Saviour, the storm may seem to grow blacker : we cry for pardon, and feel a growing sense of sin ; pray for sanctification, and our corruptions seem to revive ; we hope for deliverance, and trials seem to multiply. And so it was with E. R. When to others there was a manifest growing in grace, to herself there was a deeper insight into the sin that dwelleth within,—leading her almost to question whether she had made any progress at all, because “there was such an evil heart within:”

and then there was the cry,—“ O most merciful Saviour, purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean.” It is thus that the Lord causes His people to grow in humility. It is thus He would wean them from self,—from all false dependence ; and never will He be wearied with their importunity. The prayer of the upright is His delight ; and the oftener we come, and the more we ask, the more welcome we are ; for His goodness, power, and grace are infinite. The greater our trials and difficulties may be, the greater reason we have to be earnest and importunate with the God of all grace, who will assuredly fulfil His promise in His own good time and way.

I may here insert an extract from a letter, written during the same year, to the lady whose Bible-class she attended.

“ Dear Lady and beloved Teacher,—Please to forgive me for writing to you, for I feel that I trouble you very much. I am thankful that you are better, for I long to hear some more faithful words from your lips : they are something I can feed upon : I think I may safely say they are bread to my soul ; although I have the

Word of God, yet I understand but little it contains; but when you explain it, it seems like bringing things out of darkness into light. Dear Lady,—When I think of the truths I have heard, and yet have made so little progress in my soul, I think sometimes the work of grace has not begun at all in *my* soul; and when I think thus, I feel as if, summoned to the judgment seat of Christ, I could not stand; and to think,—it is only ‘come,’ and ‘depart:’ and yet I have a glimmering hope that the work *has* begun, and only fear lest this should be a false hope; for when I think of the meek and lowly Saviour I don’t seem to have a mite of His likeness in me. Oh I want to feel *sure* that I am His!—to be made one with Him!—to be bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh!—to be so joined to Him that I can never be separated from Him,—that He may be my *all in all*.

“Dear Lady,—The greatest fear I have, is lest I should be deceiving myself. ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.’

“I must tell you, that death has entered our house, and has taken the youngest of us, five

weeks ago, while you were away. And my soul, dear Lady, quite longed to fly to you, the Saturday night that he died . . . . . But these words came into my mind,—‘Be still, and know that I am God;’ and I felt as if I could act upon them: that it was God and not man that seemed to comfort me. May I ask you to pray for me, that the Holy Spirit may guide and lead me into all truth! May the Lord bless you, and may you ever find Him to be near to you, in sickness and in health, to support and comfort you in all your trials and troubles, and at last receive you into His everlasting kingdom, where the inhabitant shall not say ‘I am sick.’ Dear Lady,—I should like to tell you more, but I fear I shall tire you in your weak state. May the Lord give you much of His grace to bear it.”

I subjoin here a letter written to the same, after the death of that lady’s sister.

“Kind Lady and loving Teacher,—Do forgive me for writing these words, for I feel as if I must write to you, for I do think of you so much. I know that you have lost a dear and loving sister, but I know that you have still a dear and loving Saviour near you, and that to com-

fort you in all your griefs and sorrows; for He who went to the house of Bethany to comfort the two bereaved sisters, will surely visit you; for He has said, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee,' and 'He is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.' Dear Lady,—I know that your loss is a very great one, but you have not to sorrow as those that have no hope; but you can look upon your dear sister as one among that great number which no man can number, whom ere long you shall join, never more to part again. Oh happy hour! Oh blest abode! You shall be near and like your God. Dear Lady,—I can only pray for you and that in a very poor way; but I think that the Lord will hear me, for He remembers that I am but dust. O may the everlasting arms be underneath you, to support and strengthen you in this time of need. But He has said that 'He is a very present Help in time of trouble,' and He is ever faithful to His word; and I know that it is in love to your soul that He has taken away one whom you loved; for 'like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.' Oh may this and every other trouble

bring you nearer and nearer to that Saviour who has loved you with an everlasting love! and may the Lord bless and comfort and keep you to everlasting life, and spare you a long time to speak to poor sinners about their never-dying souls, if it be His will. I shall ever have to thank God for raising you up to speak to me about my soul: but oh when I think of myself, sin seems to dwell in every corner of my heart! But, O blessed Jesus, give me Thy Holy Spirit, and take it all away; and clothe me in Thy spotless robe of Righteousness, for Thine own Name's sake. Dear Lady,—You have been so very kind to me, that I cannot think of words to thank you enough; but may the Lord reward you tenfold into your own bosom, and if I can do anything in any way for you, do tell me. From your unworthy scholar.—E. R.”

Perhaps there was nothing that more distinguished this departed child of God, than her unassuming, yet earnest and successful efforts to lead others to the Saviour, from the time she knew Him herself, and the peace and comfort to be enjoyed “through believing.”

She was one of the first Teachers in the Sun-

day School at Christ Church; and Sunday morning ever found her in the midst of her class, both at the School, and during the Service at Church. We grieve when we think of the eye that has looked up so often from her place,—where in lowliness of mind she was drinking in the Word preached,—being seen on earth no more. A few Sundays before her last short illness and death, her scholars had surprised her as she entered the school, with a nice Bible, as a present, to show their affection and gratitude. On Sunday afternoons she continued even to the last to attend the Bible-class, and took delight in bringing other young women with her. And while still earning her livelihood by the labour of her hands, she was fervent in spirit, during the week serving the Lord. On Monday she might be seen going from house to house, as a District Visitor, and in the evening attending a Bible reading, with some other members of the congregation who were in the habit of meeting their minister in the school room. For several years there were Services held in an Iron room, at St. Alban's, on Tuesday evening, whither she would bring others to hear the Gospel preached.

And though, as we have seen, she spoke so lowly of herself, yet all who knew her felt there was cause to thank God for His grace that enabled her to walk so consistently before men, and to keep up to the end a high standard of purity of heart and life. Her zeal for the welfare of others and the glory of God, was untiring,—her patient continuance in well-doing manifest to all, and that notwithstanding that she often suffered from a disease of the heart.

She had always something to give for the Holy cause of her Saviour,—her Missionary box was always well filled, though she was dependent upon her own earnings. Her devotional habits and spirituality of mind, gave to the services of our Church a charm and a relish to which souls less stable are often strangers. Thus was her spirit established in the present truth, and built up in our most holy faith.

A little before, however, she entered upon her work as a Bible-woman for this town, it pleased the Lord to visit her with a severe illness (in March last year, 1864). She was brought very low, through heart disease, for a few weeks, and it was a great privilege to visit her then. Once



she sent for me, and I noted the conversation. She said,—“the Lord seems to have sent you here five years ago to turn me to Himself, that, as a wandering sheep I might be brought to His fold.” Then she told me why she had sent for me: “I wished to tell you of the sweet communion I have had with Jesus. He has been telling me during the night that He loved me. I want to know how I can love Him in return? I wished not to go to sleep, it was so delightful to hear Him speaking, as it were, to me! but He told me, ‘He loved me, though I fell asleep.’” “But you *do* love Him?” I said. “Yes!” she replied, “but my love is such a spark to His.” I repeated the words—

“Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove!  
With all Thy quickening powers.”

She took up the words—

“Come! *shed abroad a Saviour’s love!*  
And that shall kindle ours.”

Here was an instance of that sweet communion and intercourse which the Lord’s people have with their Saviour. Those who know

God, or rather are known of Him, have communings with Him now; though not as of old, from the Mercy-seat, or in the Temple; yet they can draw near, through Jesus Christ as their Mediator, to the Throne of grace. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." Jesus thus proves that He does know His people now. Multitudes of prayers have ascended to Him from His people on earth, and most graciously has He answered them. As a simple but good old man, long confined to his bed, said the other day, in answer to the parting words, "the Lord be with you,"—"I know He is with me, because He answers me what I ask Him; by that I know that He loves me."

Nothing is more wonderful than the real intercourse which is thus maintained between heaven and earth, when one of God's believing people is in the habit of drawing near to Him from day to day, and from hour to hour, and there is fellowship with the unseen Saviour as friend speaketh with friend.

On one occasion E. R. said,—“I have much spiritual pride; I needed to be brought thus

low." She then spoke of some in her district for whom she hoped and longed in Christ Jesus,— a husband and wife in particular, who seemed to be giving themselves to Jesus. Another day (March 9th), E. R. said,—“ When first I came to you, you told me to look to the Holy Spirit, and not to man ; and that I must make Jesus my best Friend, or when I came to die, I should sink without a stay.” After prayer she said,— “ Is it wrong of me to wish rather to go and be with Him than recover? I shall love to go and be with Him.” It pleased God that she should recover, and He was doubtless preparing her for, perhaps, the most important work of her life, that she might know how to comfort others with the comfort wherewith she had been comforted of God. At length, from having been for some years a District Visitor, during hours taken from her daily employment, she was enabled to give up her time entirely to the visiting of the sick and poor, through the kind liberality of a lady, who took much interest in the Lord’s work, at St. Alban’s. For a short time she was with the Bible-woman at Watford, and received afterwards some instructions from one who has

had much experience in the training of Missionaries for home work, and who was stationed at St. Alban's, and with whom she worked in most Christian harmony during the remaining last few months of her life. I may here venture to introduce his testimony concerning her, after she had finished her course.

“E. R. was remarkable for an evenly-balanced mind: there was in it a symmetry,—a justness of proportion, which produced a moral beauty, and gave her a power of no ordinary kind, which was quietly, yet none the less forcibly felt by all who came near her. One accustomed to look at matters from a worldly point of view would never have surmised, that beneath such a modest, unassuming exterior there could be found such force of character and high moral excellence. The gentle loving strength of her mind was a succour to the poor and sick whom she visited. By a kind of intuition they felt that they could rely on her in their weaknesses and infirmities, and that she would prove a true friend,—and in this they were not disappointed.

‘*Bonus textuarius est bonus Theologus.*’

“If this ever was true of any one it was of E. R. Her might in piety was greatly owing to her might in the Scriptures. The thought of God was her thought: it was incorporated with the habit of her mind. The *relatedness* of Scripture facts to Scripture doctrine, and of one doctrine to another, with their bearings on Christian experience and life, she clearly apprehended. This enabled her to detect a fallacy in statement and an error in doctrine. She had a godly jealousy for the Truth as it is in Jesus. Her habitual communion with God greatly increased her spiritual perception; and what was frequently obscure to one of larger earthly knowledge was plain to her. She had a clear view of character, and with a delicacy and tact all her own, gently yet faithfully, felt her way to the conscience; took hold of tangled hopes and fears, views and experiences, and, by the light of the Word made all straight and clear; and in her hands, rude brusque men became gentle and ‘bidable.’ Before her teaching, dark doubts passed away; a guilty perturbed conscience found peace; men and women became holier and happier.—W. C.”

It will be interesting after this testimony to

turn now to the Journal which E. R. kept, and gather from it some extracts, as samples of her work:—

Sept. 12, 1864.—Visited from house to house in Portland Street: received kindly, except in one case. One woman said,—“I am very glad you have come to read to me.” She said she did wish and pray for a new heart, but the more she tried the farther she seemed behind. I read John iii. to her, and tried to set before her the willingness of Christ to save, and the love of God to sinners. She said it seemed so hard *to believe*. I told her the little prayer,—“Lord! increase my faith!” Another said she was disappointed in not going to the house of God on Sunday, but thought upon the text,—“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.”

Sept. 13.—Visited from house to house in . . . was received very kindly by all,—especially in one case, where I met with a young woman who has two children but no husband. I read to her the latter part of Luke vii.

Sept. 15.—Only one woman refused me admittance into her house, and refused to take a tract.

Prayed that she might not refuse the Lord Jesus Christ, but that He would pour into her soul His Holy Spirit, and bring her as a little child to His feet.

Sept. 16.—A poor sick man said to me, it was such a comfort to him to know that he had nothing to pay to come to Jesus, for Jesus had paid the debt.

The first house I went to to-day, received great encouragement. A person was very thankful to have me call and read to her, and also for a tract. I read a portion of Scripture, and I left her in tears.

Sept. 19.—Visited in Fishpool Street, and distributed some tracts. Had an interesting conversation with a young woman upon spiritual things: read John iii. Called at another house, where several families live; met with four of them in a room together. I read to them a portion of the book entitled "Come to Jesus."

Sept. 21.—Read to several sick persons: to one sick man, the latter part of Matt. xv: he said, with tears, the Lord had helped him. I met with a young woman who is not well, living in sin. She was pleased I called. I told her Jesus

was ready to receive all who came to Him, but that we must forsake our sins.

Sept. 22.—Visited Dagnal Lane and Shrub's Yard.

Sept. 23.—Visited Spicer Street and Queen Street, and read the Word of God to the people in the Alms-houses. One poor woman seemed very much to feel what was said. I read the 53rd chapter of Isaiah to her, and the tears streamed down her face the whole of the time, and in the evening she sent the little girl to ask me to call and see her the next day. I read to her the 25th Psalm.

Sept. 27.—Visited at seventeen houses in Temperance Street, left a tract at each house, read the Word of God in five of them ; visited at three houses in other parts of the town, and read to the people.

Sept. 28.—Called at twenty houses in College Place, left a tract at each, and had some spiritual conversation in some of the houses ; visited and read in two other houses ; and called to see two sick persons.

Sept. 29.—Called at seventeen houses in New England Street.



Sept. 30.—Visited four sick persons in other parts of the town, and one blind man; he was very thankful for my reading the 55th chapter of Isaiah to him. He said he loved some one to come and speak to him about his soul. I repeated the hymn beginning,—

“I heard the voice of Jesus say,” &c.

He said he had never heard such a beautiful hymn before. Visited six houses in the Abbey-mill Lane.

Oct. 3.—Visited two lodging-houses in George Street, distributed tracts to the people I met there. One woman spoke of a tract I had left, and said, she wished she could say as the woman she read of said,—“She had found redemption through Christ.” Read Matt. ix. 18, to her. She seemed to drink in the words, and again said, she wished she had found Jesus. Oh, may the Lord reveal Himself to her, as the only Saviour.

Oct. 4.—Visited in Lower Dagnall Lane and in the Verulam Road; left a tract at each house, and had some spiritual conversation at two of the houses. Visited five houses upon Barnard Heath, and read the Word of God in two of them.

Oct. 5.—Called at twenty-three houses in Abbey-mill Lane and Orchard Street; left a tract at each, and had some conversation with several of the people. Visited three houses in Portland Street, and read to the people.

Oct. 6.—Called at some houses in Fishpool Street, to invite the people to a Cottage Meeting: read the Word of God in nine of them.

Oct. 7.—Visited fifteen houses in Portland Street, read the Word of God in twelve of them, and called to see one sick person, who *spoke much of the goodness of God to her*.

Oct. 22.—Visited four sick persons, one a young woman in a consumption, who has been living in sin. When I call to see her, she weeps very much. I asked her why she cried so much? She said she felt she should not get well, and she was not fit to die. I tried to point her to the Saviour, who casts out none that come to Him.

Oct. 27.—Visited ten houses in New England Street. Met with some inquiring souls. Oh! may Jesus speak to them, and may they know His voice and follow Him. Invited the people to the Cottage Meeting.

Oct. 29.—One poor man said, "God must have

loved us very much to have given His Son to die for us."

Oct. 31.—Visited fourteen houses in different parts of the town, read the Word of God in ten, and prayed in four of them. Spoke to one poor woman I met with, of the Holy Spirit; she said, "that she had felt the comfort of the Holy Spirit in times past, and great would be her condemnation if she were lost."

Nov. 2.—Visited fifteen houses in Orchard Street. One woman asked me to remember her in my prayers. Visited four persons that are sick.

Nov. 3.—Visited five houses on the Redbourn Road. Read and prayed in each house. Visited three sick persons: one woman said, "what wonderful love for God to give His only Son to die for poor sinners."

Nov. 4.—Read to some young people in a Work-room.

Nov. 8.—Visited the houses on Barnard's Heath, and seven in other parts of the town. Read the Word of God in six of them, and prayed in each. One sick person said, "it is the Lord, let Him do what seemeth Him good."

Nov. 10.—Read the Word of God in eight houses. One aged person said, “I sit and wonder, and it puzzles me, how I am to get to Jesus.” Read part of Matt. ix. to him.

Nov. 12.—Visited four sick persons. One poor man said, “What would a poor dying creature do if he had not a Saviour to look to? The more I think, and the more I pray, the more I see what a sinner I have been, and the more I feel the need of a Saviour.

[Many of the entries are only varied by the different names of the streets and courts, and the number of the houses visited.]

Nov. 15.—Visited five houses in different parts of the town, and read the Word of God to the people. Attended a Cottage Meeting in the M—— Buildings.

Nov. 16.—Visited seven houses in Jones' Yard, and six in other parts of the town. Read to some young people in a Work-room.

Nov. 21.—Visited eighteen houses in Portland Street, and read the Word of God. Met with a person in trouble. I said to her, “I hope you can take your trouble to the Lord?” She said,

“ I don't take my troubles in the right way; I am like Martha in one thing, careful and troubled about many things, but the one thing needful I almost forget.” I repeated a few passages of Scripture, one from Matt. vi. 33.

Nov. 25.— Visited seven houses in Spicer Street, and the Lodging-house. On leaving one, I said, “ I hope you will soon be better.” She said, “ I shall not be any better till I get landed; I am now as it were very sea-sick, when I get safe landed in heaven, I shall be well.” The woman I mentioned (Oct. 3), said, “ I do hope and pray the Lord will open my heart.”

Dec. 1.— Visited fourteen houses in Orchard Street. Had some conversation with some who were anxiously inquiring the way of salvation. One woman said, “ Satan tempts me so much when I am praying, I can scarcely pray at all.”

Dec. 2.— Visited twenty-one houses in College Place. Most of the people seemed very glad to have some one to speak to them about their souls.

Dec. 6.— One man said, “ I often think about my soul, and the tears run down my face when I am in bed, but my heart is so hard, as hard as a stone, it seems as if nothing could break it.”

Dec. 8.—Invited the people to a Cottage Meeting in Portland Street. Read to some young people in a Work-room.

Dec. 9.—One poor woman said, “I want the spirit of prayer to come to my soul; once I was not afraid to die, but now I am.”

Dec. 13.—One woman living in the Redbourn Road, said, “I love the Lord so little, I do want to love Him more, but there seems something lurking in my heart which hinders me.” Another said, living in the A—M—Lane, “I cannot think what poor creatures do who have no Saviour to look to, for when I am not able to read God’s Word, yet I can hang upon Christ.”

Dec. 17.—One of the sick visited, was a young man very ill of consumption, who had been drawn away by worldly companions, but of late had been seeking to have peace with God, and has found it, and now he is not afraid to die, but can leave all, to go to be with Jesus.

Dec. 20.—G. R. seems to have commenced a Cottage Meeting in 2, Adelaide Street, on Tuesday afternoons.

Dec. 21.—One poor man said, “what a comfort it is to have some one come to read God’s Word,

it seems so refreshing and strengthening, not being able to go to the House of God.

Dec. 23.—One poor woman said, “I love Christmas, it seems a time when we ought to rejoice. When I think that Jesus condescended to be born a babe, and there was no room for Him at the inn, when all the world was His, and then to think of His coming again to judge the world, in all His glory; sometimes I feel that I can rejoice in Him as my Saviour, but at other times I have doubts and fears.”

Dec. 30.—One person said, “I thank the Lord for sending me sickness and poverty, for it was that which lead me to seek Him.”

Jan. 3, 1865.—Visited fifteen houses. One woman said, “What a comfort to know that Jesus is able to save to the uttermost, and there is none too vile, and none too bad, for Him to save.”

Jan. 23.—As I was reading in one house, the people were working (making hats), but the work fell from their hands, and they seemed to listen with great earnestness.

[I venture to make a few more extracts as I

look through the journal, relying as I do implicitly, on the truth of its statements.]

Feb. 27.—Visited eighteen houses in Portland Street; read the Word of God in some of them, and had some spiritual conversation. One woman said, “she had been thinking about the sermon she had heard on the past evening, from Ezek. xviii. 30,—‘Repent and turn yourselves from all your transgressions, so iniquity shall not be your ruin.’ She thought she never had heard such a solemn sermon. Said, she had prayed that it might help her to decide, and be on the Lord’s side, and that the text and sermon might not rise up in judgment against her.” \*

Mar. 6.—The person mentioned Feb. 27, said, “she was very glad she stayed on Sunday and partook of the Lord’s Supper, for she had received a blessing to her soul, for she felt Jesus had died for her, and that her heart was filled with more love towards Him.”

Mar. 8.—Visited in Abbey-mill Lane. One woman said, “she thought there was no one so

\*This person came shortly after to the Lord’s Table for the first time, having long been thinking on the subject.



poor as Jesus was, when He was upon earth, not having a place where to lay His head, and yet He went through all that for such a wicked creature as she was."

Mar. 10.—Several of the people visited seemed to be inquiring the way which leadeth unto life.

Mar. 15.—Visited in Fishpool Street. Met with a person who was anxious about her soul: she said, "she never had entirely forgotten her Maker, and used to read her Bible sometimes, but the cares of this world had so engrossed her attention, that she had never sought the Lord aright, and never felt herself a sinner until lately; but the more she reads the Bible, the greater sinner she sees herself to be, it often keeps her waking in the night thinking of her sins."

[I pass over many of the entries in the journal, all but summaries from day to day of houses visited, readings in the Work-room, and Cottage Meetings, which might seem uninteresting repetitions; though they are really an index of E—— R——'s diligence, and the persevering character of her work. But, a few more remarks

made by the sick, and noted down by her, may be quoted, showing how she drew forth their confidence.]

Mar. 22.—Read the Word of God in six houses. One woman said, “What a mercy it is to have such a Saviour to come to, One who can feel for us in all our troubles ; and to live in a land where there is so much light, while many of our fellow-creatures have not the Word of God to teach them, and no ministers to tell them the way of life.”

Mar. 23.—Visited fourteen houses ; read the Word of God in seven of them. One man said, “afflictions are sent for our good, to remind us we must die. When in health I thought but little about it.”

Mar. 24.—One woman said, “ I feel I do love Jesus, but it grieves me when I think how little my love is to Him who has loved me so much, for I should never have loved Him at all, if He had not loved me first.”

Mar. 29.—Read the Word of God in nine houses. Saw again, an interesting young woman, whom I met with March 1 ; and who said, “ the

Lord seemed to be sanctifying the affliction to her soul, and that she did not mind being alone, for she felt the Lord was with her :” she said to-day, “I love sometimes to be alone to read my Bible, and think about heavenly things.”

Mar. 30.—One person said, “How great the sufferings must have been which Jesus went through, and all for poor sinners such as me, and He has been so good and kind to me all through my life, and has brought me through many troubles.”

April 3.—One woman said, “The Lord has brought me low in circumstances, to lead me to think about my soul ; and it is a new and contrite heart that I want,—O yes ! it is that right spirit that I want.”

April 5.—Met with several persons inquiring the way of salvation ; some seemed very anxious about their souls, and the souls of those belonging to them. Read the Word of God to them.

April 6.—The person mentioned Mar. 15, still feels very anxious about her soul ; she said, “she prayed night and day to the Lord, that He would spare her till He had forgiven her sins, and made her quite ready for the kingdom of heaven.”

April 10.—Met with a young man in consumption, who said, “The Lord has been very merciful to me in not cutting me off in the midst of my sins, but has spared me, and sent me this affliction for my good. In my younger days, I was given to drink, and a great many other sins ; but of late, I have left off drinking, and attended a place of worship, and love to hear that which is good.”

April 19.—The young man mentioned April 10, said, “how much he enjoyed prayer.” On visiting him one evening, he seemed worse, and scarcely able to speak. Upon my asking him, “if I should sit up with him part of the night?” he pointed upwards, and made me understand that he believed the Lord would send him sleep. On visiting him another time, I read to him about blind Bartimæus ; he said, “Yes, Jesus is able to do *all* things, He is the great Physician, both for body and soul.”

April 24.—Visited the Alms-houses, Catherine Lane. Read the Word of God. One woman said, “I beg of the Lord night and day, to have mercy upon me, and forgive me all my sins before He takes me away, so that I may live with

Him in heaven." Another person said, "I know in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. Satan sometimes tries to rob me of my peace, but the Lord is stronger than he is."

April 29.—One young woman said, "I feel I am such a great sinner, my sins rise up before me like a great mountain, and make me think I cannot be saved. I know Jesus died for sinners, but I cannot feel that He died for me."

May 2.—Cottage Meeting in 2, A--- Street ; and called to see the young man mentioned April 19. He said, "he was not afraid to die, for he was trusting in the Lord for salvation," and "he believed that Christ cast out none that came to Him." He died the following day, and his mother said, "he was praying till the last."

May 3.—The person mentioned April 6, said, "she could leave everything belonging to this world now ; one thing only she wanted, that was, to go and see her friends once more, and tell them about the Saviour whom lately she had found."

May 8.—One sick woman said, "I do want a Saviour. I do feel the burden of my sins, and

like a sick man I need a Physician. Lord heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.”

May 12.—The young woman mentioned April 29, said, “I do not seem to have *any light in my soul*; it seems all darkness. My sins are so great, they are more than I can bear.”

May 15.—She said, “Oh, if I knew that my sins were forgiven! I would give up everything as to this world, but the thought of dying unforgiven, I cannot express.”

June 3.—[The last entry is about the same person.] The person mentioned May 15, told me, “she thought she had a little light in her soul, but Satan seemed to harass her so much.”

Such is the close of her journal, which sufficiently attests, the unremitting diligence and devotion with which she gave herself to her work; ever honouring the Word of God, and using it as the means by which the soul might be made wise unto salvation, through faith in Christ Jesus.

With great diffidence and hesitation, E. R. asked, at this time, permission to leave her work, to go and see a sister, living at Acton, who

was ill of fever, having a family dependent upon her. This visit was attended with fatal consequences to E. R.

But speaking of them, I will introduce some few extracts from her letters.

Some two or three years before, she had written to this sister, as follows:—

“Dear Sister M.,—You have four little children now, quite a little family. Oh! may you seek grace and help from above, to bring them up in the fear of the Lord. Oh! may they be gathered safely unto the fold of Christ, now while they are young; that they may be while they are young, the lambs of His fold, and in riper years, the sheep of His pasture. Kiss all the dear children for me; and now, dear sister, I commend you, and your husband, and your children, to the care of God, praying that you all may be born again unto His kindgom of grace now, so that when Christ shall come to take His people to Himself, *you all* may be among the number. May the Lord grant this for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.”

E. R. had another sister, F—, living with her at St. Alban’s; one with her in the faith of

Christ, and her constant companion when at home. She thus writes to her, when away on a visit to their married sister at Acton, in the year 1862 :—

“My dear Sister,—I trust the Lord is with you in all your trouble, and then all is well ; and also, that His sweet and loving Spirit is with you, to comfort you, and that His Holy Word is a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path. Oh ! may the precious promises be a pillow to rest your soul upon, when you lie down to rest your body at night ; and that every day you may be more conformed to His image, and wear the marks of the dying Lord Jesus, so that when He shall bid you rise, you may wake up in His likeness, clothed in the spotless robe of His righteousness, and be presented faultless before His Father’s throne, with exceeding joy. Dear sister, I trust that M—— is getting on in strength, and the baby too. I hope it is quiet. Give my love to my dear brothers ; I should love to see them, but I shall hear what you say, when I see you. Tell them not to forget their never-dying souls ; tell them they must soon appear before the judgment-seat



of Christ. Dear sister, I should have loved you to have heard Mr. --- on Sunday, I wish I could tell you every word. In the morning, the sermon was from John xiv. 9 ; in the evening, Jer. viii. 6. [Then follow some recollections of the sermon ; and she adds,—‘ dear sister, you will know this is only a sketch of it.’] All send their kind love to you, and hope soon to see you. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.”

E. R. seems to have generally written out a text at the close of her letters.

She writes to the same sister, at that season of depression before alluded to ; but breathing a most affectionate spirit.

“ My dear Sister,—I was very glad to receive your kind letter, for it seemed to cheer me a little, although it was not the same as having you with me ; for I must tell you my spirits are very low, and when I thought of myself, and my work [*i.e.* not being able to attend to it], it seemed to say all these things are against me : but, I think faith spoke loudest then, and said, ‘ all things shall work together for good,’ and that seems my greatest comfort, and to know that He who

keepeth Israel, neither slumbers nor sleeps. But what ungratefulness does He receive from me, for all His kindness towards me. Oh! I am a wonder to myself, when I think of these things: to think how the Lord spares me day after day, and bears with me. Oh! what a long-suffering God. He might justly cut me down. But how true those words,—‘He willeth not the death of a sinner.’ . . . . The girls send their kind love to you [meaning those who worked in the same room, or met together for prayer]; and now I must conclude, with kind love to you both. May the Lord bless you both, and keep you, and bring you back in peace and safety. From your affectionate sister, E. R.”

The verse added is,—“The Lord God is a sun and a shield, and no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

A few days after she wrote,—

“My dear Sister,—I am glad to tell you that I am a great deal better. I think it did me a little good writing before to you. Dear sister, I must tell you that only S—— went to the Iron Room the other night, but it was an interesting meeting, and a great many there. We had a nice meeting of

our own last night, we felt it good to meet together. . . . I must be drawing to a close, hoping soon to see you face to face, and speak together once more of Him, who laid aside His glorious robes, and took upon Him our nature, for our redemption. For I feel sure that He who measures the waters in the hollow of His hand, will take care of you, and bring you back safely to us ; from your loving sister, E. R. Be of good courage, the Lord of Hosts is with us.”

Again she writes,—

“I hope, if it is the Lord’s will, that our sister is better, and that she finds the Lord to be her helper ; for He is a present Help in time of trouble. Oh ! it would be better for us, if we went more to Him in *health*, then He would be doubly near in trouble. I trust the Lord will bring us all closer to Him, so that we may entirely live upon Him ; and may you find that underneath you, are the everlasting Arms, to strengthen you.

“Dear Sister,—I ought to have written to you before, but I don’t forget you ; and I wish it were not so far, I would come to see you. Mr. S—— is gone out, but Mr. H—— preached last Sunday, and we did like him so very much.

“Dear Sister,—I was very glad to hear that you felt the Lord was with you ; and I trust He is still, and that He may keep your mind stayed upon Him, and then I know that it will be perfect peace. Dear sister, give my duty to Mrs. B——, and may the Lord reward her ten-fold in her bosom, for being so kind to my dear friends. Give my kind love to them both, and tell them to look to that Saviour, who died for them, and whose blood can wash away all their sins, if they are ever so great ; and that He will not put upon them, more than they are able to bear ; and that as their day is, so shall their strength be, if they trust in Him alone. From your affectionate sister, E. R. Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart : Wait I say on the Lord.”

In another letter, speaking of some relatives who were ill, she says,—“Oh ! may the Lord bless the affliction to both of them. May it bring them to that Saviour, who has bought them with His precious blood. Oh ! may the Lord give them patience to bear whatever He sees fit to lay upon them. Oh ! may they find that the eternal God is their refuge and support in their weakness.

Dear sister, I hope that the Lord will strengthen you, and be with you in so much trouble; but we know that He is ever faithful to His word, and has said,—‘I am a present Help in time of trouble, and I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ And,—‘He is a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother.’ Love to father and mother, and may they find that Jesus is a loving Saviour, and that He does all things for the best. May the Lord bless you all, and bring you all to His everlasting kingdom, for Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen.”

I now subjoin, probably the last letter which E. R. wrote, after she had been to see the sister who was ill of fever.

“Dear F.—We feel very much grieved to hear our dear sister is so near to death: I say death; but I trust, nearer everlasting life, and to be for ever with the Lord.”

“Dear Sister,—You may be sure you have the prayers of us here; and on Monday evening, our dear Pastor prayed for you all, that the illness might not be unto death, but for the glory of God. But, oh! may our wills be blended with the

Lord's will ; for 'He doeth all things well.' Dear sister, I know that you and dear mother, must be almost worn out, for want of rest ; but, I trust the Lord, will be your strength and support, and your comforter, and that He will say to you, as He did to St. Paul,—' My grace is sufficient for thee,' and at eventide may it be light ; 'weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.' . . . . Oh ! I do trust, our dear sister is clinging to the Saviour, who loved her, and gave Himself for her."

The few last months of her life, E. R. kept a private diary. The first entry was—

Jan. 19.—Be pleased, O Lord, to give me an asking heart, a seeking soul, and a desiring mind.

Jan. 20.—How sweet to hold communion with God.

Jan. 21.—I find there is much pride lurking in my heart.

Jan. 22.—Be pleased to grant Lord, that where sin reigns, grace may much more abound.

Jan. 23.—Hold Thou me up, and I shall be safe.

Jan. 24.—I sent a little boy to school. Oh ! may he grow up in the fear and love of God.

Jan. 25.—Spoke to a man about his soul ; who had been drinking.

Jan. 26.—Prayed with a few people in a cottage.

Jan. 27.—Went to see a dear brother very ill. The Lord took care of me.

“To praying souls He always grants  
More than they can express.”

Jan. 28.—The cry : Isaiah vi. 5. The answer : Hosea xiii. 9.

Sunday, Jan. 20.—Waited on a dear brother ; and found the Lord to be with me.

Jan. 25.—Read the 25th Psalm to my sick brother.

Jan. 31.—Returned home in safety, but very much cast down in mind.

Feb. 1.—Had conversation with a friend about the Lord Jesus.

Feb. 2.—Attended a Cottage Meeting. Matt. xiii : prayed that the Word might fall upon good ground.

Feb. 3.—Felt it good to meet together for prayer.

Feb. 4.—Be pleased, O Lord ! to give me a mind that will be stayed upon Thyself.

Feb. 5.—A text given me, to think upon from house to house.—Exodus xxxiii. 14.

Feb. 6.—Prayed for one going to school, that the Name of the Lord might be written upon his heart.\*

Feb. 7.—Attended a Cottage Meeting; felt that the Lord was in the midst.

Feb. 8.—Many called away, yet the Lord spares unworthy me.

Feb. 9.—Heard from my sick brother; the Lord is restoring him to health; may it be to His glory.

Feb. 10.—The Lord gave me words to speak to the people.

Feb. 11.—So unlike Jesus whom I profess to follow.

Feb. 12.—Romans x. 12, 13. Isaiah li. 1. Felt stirred up to do something for the Jews.

Feb. 13.—Felt what a blessing it is to be able to tell Jesus everything.

Feb. 14.—Attended a Cottage Meeting. Felt I could say nothing; but the Lord gave me words to speak.

\* The son of her Minister.



Feb. 15.—Felt much condemned in not telling two persons they were living in sin.

Feb. 17.—“Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth.”

Feb. 19.—Felt the Lord to be a comfort to me, though not able to go to the House of Prayer.

Feb. 20.—My beloved Pastor came to see me, and prayed that the Lord might be very near to me.

Feb. 21.—Felt that the prayer was answered ; that the Lord was indeed with me.

Feb. 22.—Much better : able to go out. How very good the Lord is to me.

Feb. 23.—May the Lord keep me faithful unto death.

Feb. 24.—Felt I longed to be with my Saviour.

Feb. 25.—Felt so much unlike the Saviour, who is meek and lowly,

Feb. 27.—Be pleased, O Lord, to help me to feed upon Thee daily, that I may speak to others of Thee.

Feb. 28.—Felt the Lord to be my strength, for He helped me.

Mar. 1.—Felt selfishness spring up very strong in my heart.

Mar. 2.—Oh, for the mind of Christ.

Mar. 3.—Lord keep me from falling.

Mar. 4.—Be pleased, O Lord, to prepare my heart for the Holy Sacrament.

Mar. 5.—Felt refreshed by going to the Lord's Supper.

Mar. 6.—Thankful to see one join herself to the Lord's people.

Mar. 7.—A Cottage Meeting for men, held by the Minister. Oh! may the Lord incline their hearts to come.

Mar. 8.—2 Tim. i. 15—18: Mr. Pigou's text. "O for a heart to praise my God."

Mar. 9.—Be pleased, O Lord, to prepare me for that world where parting is unknown.

Mar. 11.—Felt impatience. Oh! may the Lord grant me to bear all things with more patience.

Mar. 13.—The Lord heard my prayer, and brought back a dear friend who had been away a few days.

Mar. 14.—Felt cast down, but the Lord was my stay.

Mar. 15.—Rev. Dr. N—— preached from John xix. 30.

Mar. 16.—Parted with a very dear friend \* for a little while : may the Lord bless her greatly.

Mar. 17.—Read about the compassionate Saviour to a sick young woman.

Mar. 18.—Felt lonely. Oh! may it help me to think more of that Friend, that “sticketh closer than a brother.”

Mar. 20.—“Lo I am with you always, even unto the end.”

Mar. 22.—Gen. xv. 8—11. Rev. Mr. Dudding’s text. “Walk in the light, while ye have the light.”

Mar. 26.—One of my scholars died : wanted to hear of nothing but Jesus.

Mar. 27.—“What think ye of Christ.”

Mar. 31.—Went to see Rev. Mr. Upton buried. Felt there was more cause for joy than grief, to be for ever with the Lord.

April 1.—So many called away. Lord help me to be always watching and waiting.

April 2.—The Lord Supper. Christ is indeed the “Bread of Life.”

April 3.—Lord help me to thank Thee for

\* One who went to take charge of an Industrial School.

raising my dear brother up again, and enabling him to come and see me.

April 4.—The Lord helped me.

April 5.—Teachers' Meeting.

April 6.—Visited a dying man : hoped I should come again.

April 7.—The Lord was my strength.

April 8.—Seemed to follow Christ a great way off.

April 9.—Isaiah lxi. 3 : " Trees of righteousness."

April 10.—Seemed overwhelmed when thinking of souls all unprepared to meet God.

April 11.—Very much cast down.

April 12.—Oh ! what a sinner : it is of the Lord's mercies I am not consumed.

April 13.—Still the Lord spares me.

April 17.—Felt very dull thinking of the sick and dying.

April 18.—Enjoyed very much the 24th of St. Luke.

April 19.—Found much in my heart contrary to God's will.

April 20.—Week-day Service in the evening. Hebrews x. 25.

April 21.—Enjoyed a Prayer Meeting. Was thanked very much for a few flowers.

April 22.—Feel the loss of my dear friend [who went to take care of a school]: may it be to my soul's good.

[Here the private diary breaks off.]

We now come to her short illness, and departure to her rest.

Referring to the extracts made from her journal, as Bible-woman, between the dates of May the 15th, and June 3rd; E. R. went to attend upon her married sister, who was ill of fever, at Acton: or rather to relieve her sister Fanny, who was watching by her, taking care of her family. E. R. went on Thursday, and came back on Saturday, May 27th. Though unwell, she continued her work through the following week. I shall now insert the narrative contributed by one of her friends.

“On Friday, June 2nd, she was so unwell, I feared for her very much; but she said— ‘Will you go to the Prayer Meeting? (I believe the last held in the Iron Room.) *Do* go, as I should like to go to-night.’ On Saturday, our

dear one was taken ill; although she visited a young woman in consumption, she was not able: for on coming upstairs, she said,—‘Some people talk of dying, I shall like to die.’ She felt so ill, she could scarce get about. On Sunday, she received the sad news of her dear sister’s death, at Acton; which tended still more to bring down her little remaining strength. But she went to Church (Whit-Sunday), telling me, ‘she should be better in the evening.’ In the evening, she complained of severe pain in the back; we tried some simple remedies, but they were of little avail, although they gave her temporary relief. On Monday, June 5th, she became worse, and medical attendance was called in; but nothing dangerous was anticipated. I think it was on Monday evening, she asked me to pray before I went home. The week passed between hope and fear; when she seemed better, we hoped; but our hopes could not last, as the next week we saw her every day grow weaker, and the fever increasing made her restless, and she had but little sleep. On it being remarked—‘your poor body is so restless, but your soul is not, you can rest that in Jesus,’ she said—‘O yes.’ On Monday,

June 12th, she wished me to write to her sister Fanny, saying she wanted her home. She said—‘If you will talk nicely to me, I shall not be so restless.’ I said—‘Shall I read?’ She said—‘No, I cannot bear that (her head being very bad); tell me something.’ I think I repeated a verse of Scripture: she said—‘Now a little hymn.’ She asked me again, to have a little prayer together, but I found it hard to say, ‘Thy will be done.’ She frequently said—‘Lord help me to be more patient: Lord have mercy upon me.’ And when anything was brought to her that she had no relish for, she would say—‘Lord help me to like, and may it do me good: Lord send me a little better, if it please Thee, but Thy will be done.’ She asked a friend if she would go and visit a young woman in consumption; upon asking her if she had any message, she replied—‘Tell her, I hope she is looking to her Saviour.’ Another time, she asked her to go and see another poor dying woman, and tell her ‘she hoped she would soon be with the Lord.’ Her sister came home on Tuesday, 13th; hearing her down stairs, she said—‘I think she is crying: tell her to come upstairs to me.’ Kissing her, she

said—‘I am so glad you have come home, how are the poor little children (meaning her sister’s motherless little ones). The next day, her sister read to her: she asked her to pray. Another time her sister read the 65th chapter of Isaiah: and she remarked on the 24th verse—‘How beautiful to think, before we call, He will hear; and while we are yet speaking, He will answer.’ Another time, turning in bed, she said—‘Sweet to lie passive in His Hands, and know no will but His.’ Another time, when suffering greatly, she said—‘Oh come, my Saviour, and take me to Thyself.’ After her sister had prayed one evening, she said—‘That was a nice prayer, I hope the Lord will answer that.’ Then she began to pray herself, and kept on until overcome by weakness. After a severe attack of sickness, she said—‘Now is the time I feel the everlasting Arms underneath me.’ She said—‘You must *pray* for me: Hezekiah prayed, and the Lord heard his prayer.’ At another time, she said,—‘I cannot pray myself, but I know Jesus is pleading for me.’ On Wednesday, June 21st, we saw a great change; her pain of body seemed all gone, there was no low moan of pain, her body and soul seemed at



peace. She said,—‘I am *better* ;’ but it was no good change, though there was a sweet smile on her fair countenance. She repeated most of the 23rd Psalm, with the help of a friend. She said—‘Tell me some passages of Scripture :’ one repeated these verses—‘I know that my Redeemer liveth,’ etc. ‘Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty,’ etc. She said—‘Now some hymns.’ ‘As pants the hart for cooling streams,’ was repeated to her ; she said—‘That is a nice one.’ Now, ‘Rock of Ages.’ She said one line, and then a friend another ; when we got to the 3rd verse, she said with such a sweet child-like voice—‘*Nothing* in my hand I bring,’ finishing the verse herself. She then said—‘Now Jesus, lover of my soul.’ Coming to the 3rd verse, we could not remember it ; she said, with emphasis, ‘What a pity, that is such a nice verse.’ The Hymn-book was got, and when it was begun, she remembered it, and said so sweetly—‘Thou, O Christ ! art all I want,’ etc., and with a little help finished it. She then said—‘Miss R—— said my feet should be iron and brass ; and as my day, my strength should be.’ Seeing a friend inquiring,—‘They have told you,’ she said, ‘what

the doctor said ; they should not have done so.' Kissing her fondly, she said—' You must not fret, for it will be for the best, whichever way it is : wont it Fanny ?' Upon her sister saying ' Yes, my dear ;' she said—' There, Fanny says so : your Saviour will love you.' She said to her sister—' Perhaps the Lord will be better to us than our fears.' A lady calling, she was asked if she would like to see her ; she said—' I should like her to come up and pray.' Wishing very much to get out of bed, and seeing we were fearful, she said—' Don't be afraid, we will put ourselves in the Lord's Hands.' On Thursday, she was asked if the Lord were with her. Looking earnestly up, she said—' Yes : did you think He was not ? The Lord will give *dying grace*, if He does not give dying words.' When asked if she could say with St. Paul—' For me to *live* is Christ, but to *die* is *gain*.' She looked up, and moved her head in assent. Other texts of Scripture were repeated, but she was too weak to reply. A catching pain at her heart increasing, seemed to take all power from her, and she spoke no more. She suffered greatly all night. A friend going in about three o'clock in the morning, she smiled sweetly. At

six, the last change came ; and all her friends came into the room. We watched her dying struggles, and could have said for our sakes *live* ; but why keep her, when the Master had said, 'Come up higher' ? A short time before she died, she seemed to take a loving look at each, and then closing her eyes, her gentle loving spirit fled to be for ever with the Lord."

[Her friend's narrative ends here.]

As we looked upon her countenance, after the last struggle was over, the sweet lines of Mrs. Hemans seemed truly applicable.

"Calm on the bosom of thy God,  
Fair spirit, rest thee now ;  
E'en while on earth thy footsteps trod,  
His seal was on thy brow.  
Dust to its narrow house beneath,  
Soul to its place on high ;  
They who have seen thy look in death,  
No more may fear to die."

May it please God to raise up others in His infinite goodness, to carry on each labour of love in which our departed sister (who now rests from her labours) was engaged.

May we not hope that her works will follow her, ripening and wrought over again in the lives of those whom she sought to direct in the way of life ; and then when they depart, it will be to follow her in their turn to the skies, there at once to participate in and add to her bliss, and sing with her the Saviour's praise to all eternity !

On the day of her funeral, her body was borne, up the long nave of the ancient Abbey Church, followed by many mourning relatives and friends, and some of her Sunday scholars, to its last resting-place ; near the place where the Martyr Tankerfield was burnt at the stake, at the west end of the Abbey Church. The Service was read by the Pastor who first received her at the Lord's Table on earth ; while many of those who loved her and valued her services, were standing round the closing grave.

Beside the dying couch of characters like hers, Ministers of Christ may take their stand with feelings of almost unmingled satisfaction. Over the tombs of such departed saints, their sorrowing kindred and friends may shed some natural tears, but they will weep as though they wept not.

Of the holy lives and happy deaths of such blessed servants of God, honourable mention should be made, in the hope and expectation that valuable instruction will be gathered by survivors. It is with this cheering hope and expectation, that this little book is compiled. Oh! may the remembrance of her earnest and affectionate Christian spirit, awaken many to follow her steps as she followed Christ; that in the day, when He who rose from the dead by His own Almighty Power, and raised the objects of His compassion by the word of His mouth, shall cause the dust of our church-yards to be in a moment instinct with life, they may rise with her, to the life immortal, and be welcomed—body as well as soul—into His kingdom and glory, as the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb!

## THE HARVEST HOME.

*“That both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.”—John iv. 36.*

From the far-off fields of earthly toil  
A goodly host they come;  
And sounds of music are on the air,—  
'Tis the song of the Harvest Home!  
The weariness and the weeping,  
The darkness has all pass'd by,  
And a glorious sun has arisen,—  
The sun of eternity!

We have seen those faces in days of yore,  
When the dust was on their brow,  
And the scalding tear upon their cheek:  
Let us look at the labourers now!  
We think of the life-long sorrow,  
And the wilderness days of care;  
We try to trace the tear-drops,  
But no scars of grief are there.

The long waiting days are over,—  
They've received their wages now;  
For they've gazed upon their Master,  
And His Name is on their brow.  
They've seen the safely-garner'd sheaves,  
And the song has been passing sweet,  
Which welcomed the last in-coming one  
Laid down at their Saviour's feet.

Yes! sowers and reapers are meeting;  
A rejoicing host they come!  
Will you join the echoing chorus?  
'Tis the song of the Harvest Home!





