



Parting of Elias and Eliseus—Power of Prayer.*

BY ENFANT DE MARIE.

THE parting shadows gathered darkly round them ;
 What are these whispers like the night-wind's moan ?
 " Dost thou not know the Lord will take thy Master ? "
 " I also know it. " Plaintive was the tone.

The holy intercourse of son and father,
 Of master and disciple soon must cease.
 Too well he knows ! and ah, how deep the anguish
 Of that devoted spirit ! " Hold your peace ! "

How tenderly Elias seemed as pleading
 That his last hours on earth might be alone :
 " Stay here at Bethel—Jericho—the Jordan. "
 " I will not leave thee ! " sighed the monotone.

" What wilt thou have me do, O Eliseus,
 Before I leave, to soothe thy inward pain ? "
 " O Father, I beseech thee hear my pleadings,
 That thy own spirit may in me remain ! "

" Thou askest for a favor great and precious,
 Most difficult, disciple dear to me ;
 But still, if thou art present at my transit
 The Lord shall give this spirit unto thee. "

Lo, in a flaming chariot upward borne
 By Angel-hosts, on wings of mighty wind,
 Mount Carmel's Prophet rises—" O my Father !
 My Father ! " weeps the mourner left behind.

The well-worn mantle of his holy master
 Has fallen, as an heir-loom dear and blest.
 Meet emblem that Elias' " double spirit " †
 Of miracles and prophecy in him shall rest.

Alone ! the great heart, brave and true, and zealous
 And tender as a mother's—gone away ;
 And in this weary exile the disciple
 Must wait and watch, must suffer still and pray.

Must, for " the Lord of Hosts, " be strong and ardent,
 And speak prophetic words of His sweet will,
 Must glorify His name by signs and wonders
 Than those of Saint Elias greater still.

O wondrous power of trustful intercession
 To win most precious favors from above !
 We are not pleading for prophetic knowledge,
 But for the spirit of God's light and love.