

hear you say something that would make me feel better, but you have only made me feel worse. I wanted to wait after the service to-night, but I wouldn't wait. I had got nearly home, but felt that I couldn't go into the house; I must come back to speak to you. I don't know what to do."

There was an intensity of manner which betrayed no little trouble of heart. Truly the iron had gone into her soul.

"What seems to be wrong?"

"I hardly know. I have tried to feel all right, but have never quite succeeded, and now what you have said to-night has made me feel worse than ever. I have no assurance that I am forgiven. I have tried to persuade myself that perhaps it is not necessary that I should, and that it is a blessing that only some Christians are privileged to have, but my heart has refused to be satisfied. Oh, what shall I do? Will you tell me what I ought to do?"

"What you want beyond all else is to be saved, is it not?"

"Yes, I do."

"You remember that the Bible says: 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.'"

"Yes, I know it does, and I have tried to believe, but I suppose I have never exercised the right kind of faith. Sometimes I think I have no faith at all; despair seems to take hold on me."

"Do you see that house over there on the other side of the street?"

"Yes," said my companion, evidently rather surprised that I should thus break off from the subject.

"If I should think of going to live in that house, there would probably be some alterations to make, some decorating, and such like work to do. But before I could have those changes made something else must first be done. Do you know what?"

"I suppose you ought to secure the right to enter the house. You would be obliged to have the key."

"Your heart is a good deal like what we have supposed that house to be. There needs to be a great alteration. If you take the key to Jesus and ask Him to do it all, I am sure He will. If you had told the Lord Jesus Christ as much about yourself as you have told me to-night, you would be saved by this time. He can save you. I can not. Will you not tell Him about it?"

We had by this time reached the gate of her home, and, thinking it best to leave her thus in His presence, I said good-night. I looked for her at the next evening's service, but she was not present, or

at any rate I did not see her. The following evening, however, I noticed her in one of the front pews. "I wonder if He has given her rest yet?" I asked myself, as I sought her face for an answer. "I will know when we begin to sing," I thought.

"O Christ, what burdens bowed thy head,
Our load was laid on Thee."

I looked at her quickly. Her eyes were filled with tears. "Surely Jesus has the key of that heart," I said.

Afterward she sought me out. "I want to tell you how happy I am. It's all right. What you said about it being a mere matter of the will, apart from feeling, seemed to be what helped me. Did not Christ say once to some people: 'Ye search the scriptures, and do other things, but ye will not come to me that ye may have life'? I have been one of those. I have searched everything and tried in every direction, only to be disappointed. But now I have come to Him and He has given me rest. There's no burden now."

M.

FOR PARISH AND HOME.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

A GIRLS' FRIENDLY, as the name implies, should, in the highest sense of the word, be a friendly society. And, to attain this ideal, all social distinctions must be ignored amongst the members during the hour of meeting. They must feel that, for the time at least, they are, as it were, one family, meeting on a ground of perfect equality.

And this can easily be accomplished by the display of a little tact, and personal interest in the individual members, on the part of the president and other officers, without at all lessening their own dignity, or causing them to be misunderstood, or annoyed by undue familiarity.

Then, to be free from all restraint of class distinctions, the members must feel perfectly at home; and I would suggest here that the best way to attain this is to let the girls take as much active part as possible in the meeting.

Let them distribute the books, play for the hymns, prepare and give out the work—in short, do everything that it is possible for them to do. Make them realize that it is their meeting, and their privilege to make it pleasant and profitable one; and that they are not there to be amused or entertained by the presiding officers.

Now, as to work. Take up some definite object of work. If it is the mission field, select some mission which you con-

sider especially needs help, and write to the missionary for an account of his work and the needs there, letting the girls read the answer, and have a definite knowledge of the wants of the people for whom they are working. In this way it will be more real to them, and, consequently, far more interesting.

And now, leaving the girls for a moment, let me say a few words to the presidents, for in their hands, after all, lie largely the success of the society.

In the first place, let me emphasize the necessity of punctuality, both in opening and closing the meeting. A few minutes may make very little difference to you, but may prove of serious inconvenience to the members, especially those who are in service; for, if you keep them later than the hour named, they may be blamed for staying, or make it an excuse for staying out later still; whereas, if it was distinctly understood that the meeting closed at a certain hour, it could easily be known if they had returned home, or gone elsewhere in the meantime.

And, in conclusion, I would suggest that, while there may be other reading during the evening, the Bible lesson be given last. Send them home with the words of eternal truth ringing in their ears, remembering that many of those girls rarely enter the house of God, or get a word of religious instruction, except what they receive from you. And the more you realize this, the more anxious you will become to make the teaching of the lesson personally applicable and helpful to the members. But to do this it is necessary to have an insight into the character and a knowledge of their individual spiritual needs; and as, owing to their position, it is impossible for you to see much of them at other times, I would suggest that, leaving the girls to arrange the work in the earlier part of the meeting, you take this opportunity to have a little private conversation on religious matters with the different members, in order to ascertain what are their special temptations and failings, so that you may be able to make the lesson teaching profitable to them; thus showing them by your sympathy, counsel, and example that you really have their spiritual welfare truly at heart, and so teach them to look to you, not merely as the head of their society, but as a personal friend, to whom they can always turn for counsel and help, and from whom they can ever expect kindly sympathy and words of Christian counsel.

L. SANDYS.

"Deaconess House," Toronto.