

even by the short conversation I had with him. O for the indwelling of the Spirit; may He apply the redemption purchased by Christ! may I aim, O God, more and more at thy glory! may I set my affections on things above!"

"Jan. 26th.—Talked a short time with the Dr., who felt much encouraged in (I trust) my Heavenly journey—spent some time with Mrs. B., I trust, profitably. Oh! for more zeal for Christ and His cause! How much cause have I to lament my backwardness! Oh! Blessed Saviour, deny me not Thy presence at Thy table: may I feel that Thou art precious! that Thou art indeed near—may I draw near clothed in Thy righteousness—the wedding garment! feeling more and more my own unworthiness. Justly mightest Thou have left unmaking to perish, as Thou didst the fallen angels; but no sooner did man fall, than Thou didst promise him a Saviour, even thine own Son."

Her mind had been for months before led to the subject of making a solemn dedication of herself to God, by taking the Sacramental vows. In referring to the preceding communion season, she writes:—

"I feel more and more my need of a Saviour. Heard a beautiful and encouraging sermon from the Rev. Mr. Begg, from Scotland. The dispensation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper has produced a great effect upon my mind. I feel more the want of a Saviour. I have made a solemn resolution before God and my own soul, (depending upon God for strength to perform it), that I will be the Lord's. May God help me to keep this resolution!" In another paper she mentions, that a sermon preached by Mr. Robt. from 1 Cor. v. 8, confirmed her resolution. "Satan, I know, would have me to reject the offer, but I would say to him, 'Get thee behind me, Satan. Lord, I believe, help Thou mine unbelief.—Save, Lord, or I perish.' How often have I resolved to give myself to Christ, but have failed, because I relied on my own strength. Lord, now I depend on Thee alone, knowing that I can do nothing without Thy aid. Help me, Lord."

"Monday.—I feel as if Christ had removed the burden of sin. I cast myself at Thy feet, O Lord, have compassion upon me. Wilt Thou say to me, as Thou saidst to Mary Magdalene of old, 'Thy sins are forgiven thee.' Give me, O Lord, a meek, humble, quiet disposition. May I follow the example of Christ in all things. Help me, Lord! Shew me more and more of my own wicked heart. I might have been cut off in my sins, were it not for the long suffering of God.—May I depend wholly upon Thee, Lord, for salvation!"

At this time also, we find, she began to keep a list of all the texts she heard preached, and sometimes extracts from the sermons, clearly and judiciously taken.—Her note-book is thus prefaced:—"Solemn thought, that for each sermon I hear, I shall have to give an account at the last day! O may I be a faithful steward!—I am under great responsibilities. Grant me Thy grace to improve each opportunity, and every one of these great privileges." What a practical lesson we may draw from such a reflection!

The following letter was received from her, at this time, by her teacher:—

Toronto, 26th Jan., 1847.

MY DEAR TEACHER,—

I feel greatly indebted to you for the kind advice and instructions which you gave me in the letter you handed me on Sabbath; and for the many precious passages you wished me to refer to. May the Holy Spirit enable me to apply these truths and promises to my own case. I hope you will excuse me for not mentioning my intentions to you before, but, I must confess, I have been too backward on the delightful subjects. It is exactly one year ago, at the Sacramental season, that I made a solemn resolution, in dependence on Divine aid to perform it—to live no longer for

myself, but to Him who died for me, and gave Himself for me. This was by no means the first resolution I made for this purpose—(but being made in my own strength, how could I expect to perform it!)—Having been under Sabbath School training, and having the benefit of good teachers, even before I could read, also enjoying the great advantages of religious precept and example at home, I early felt a desire to be united with that blessed company, whose robes have been washed in the blood of Immanuel. I have no doubt but that this resolution is now recorded where it will never be erased. Solemn thought indeed! God grant that it may not rise in judgment against me! My ingratitude for redeeming love seemed to overwhelm me, and, in the Providence of God, led me to my devoting my life to Him. May His glory be my constant aim! My humble prayer to God is, that your prayers and kind wishes, in my behalf, and the other members of your class, may be heard and answered. I would go up to the "Feast," leaning upon the Beloved, and trusting in His promises. That you may meet every member of your class on the right hand of the Judge of all the earth, is the heartfelt desire of your pupil.

M. A. GILBERT.

"Tuesday, Feb. 2.—Went to Dr. Burns, and had a short conversation with him, in which he gave me good advice—told me what I professed when approaching the Lord's table, and recommended me in prayer to God's special guidance. Lord teach me humility—give me a sense of my own vileness."

"1. Give me a calm and thankful heart,

From every murmur free—

The blessing of Thy grace impart,
And let me bide with Thee.

"2. Let the sweet hope that I am Thine,
My life and death attend

Thy presence through my journey shine,
And crown my journey's end."

"Feb. 4th.—I received a token of admission to the table of the Lord from the hands of my beloved Pastor,—may I receive a token from the Master of the Feast! May I have on the wedding garment, Christ's righteousness! Search me and try me O God, and see if there be any wicked way in me."

"Friday.—A day set apart for public worship in connection with the solemn services of Sabbath. Heard Dr. Burns preach from 1 Cor. xi. 28, on self-examination." One passage seems to have struck her, "a true christian will not limit this necessary exercise to this period, but seeks to engage in it at the close of every day, every week, every month, every year."

She gives pretty full notes of a discourse which she heard in the evening from Rev. ii. 17. If our limits admitted, we would give these extracts, just to show how clearly she understood, and how attentively she heard the Gospel message. She closes with this prayer, "May the Holy Spirit apply these important truths to my own hell-deserving soul! and may I be one of those for whom Christ died." She seems to have equally profited by the preparation sermon of Saturday—Self-dedication being the subject. She writes, "Lord grant that this sermon may be to those who heard it a savor of life unto life. May I on the morrow make an entire surrender of myself to Him, who loved us and gave himself for us. Lord accept this offering—it is all I can give. but, Blessed be thy name, it is all thou requirest."

"Sabbath morning.—Having so near a prospect of professing love to Jesus, I would seek special grace from on high. Oh, how unworthy to ask this from the King of kings and Lord of lords, poor sinful creature that I am, still I would ask of thee that this may be the day of my espousals to thy Saviour! What an honor! worldly minds cannot comprehend this. Spiritualize my mind this day—grant Lord, that I may meet with thee at thy own table—spread thy banner of love around me—bless all communicants. I would

ask a special blessing on my parents and relatives who are going to renew their promise to Thee—draw near to me, O Lord—be with thy servants who shall minister unto us in holy things—strengthen their hands, encourage their hearts. May the Holy Spirit take of the things of Christ, and apply them to my soul. Lord, I believe, help mine unbelief."

"Sabbath evening.—I have this day publicly professed my love to Jesus. I have for the first time sat down at His table, and may God grant it may be for the better, and not for the worse! Heard a beautiful and appropriate sermon by Dr. B. from John xviii. 11. I have this day taken Christ as my Saviour; but, I should not say, taken Him. I trust He has taken me for His 'spouse,' poor and unworthy as I am, it was for such He died—for such He drank the contents of the 'cup.' May I have an interest in His blood! I am afraid I have been making my approach to thy table too formally; but, I think when there, I felt my Saviour near—I heard His sweet voice saying unto me 'Go in peace, thy sins are forgiven thee.' May I not have been deceiving myself—but may He indeed have said this to me! When uncle Harris (who served at the table at which I sat) directed our eyes to Calvary, to see the Son of God hanging on the Cross, my hard heart began to melt—my tearless eyes began to weep for Him who sweat drops of blood for me; and when I thought of the 'cup' which He drank, in which my sins were mingled, was the shedding of a few tears anything? Ah no! but my sins were there. Accept, O Lord, the offering I have made this day, if made (as I trust) in sincerity. I am hence-forward thine, my desires are to thee. It is all thou askest in return for thy wondrous love. I have this day renewed my Baptismal engagement."

"Not being able to go to church this evening, wilt thou bless to me such portions of thy word or of other books as are suitable for the occasion—leave me not alone—deny me not thy presence—increase my faith—Lord, I believe, help mine unbelief. May I repose with unshaken confidence on the sacrificial atonement of Christ for acceptance with God. May I remember that Christ died for me, and left me an example that I should follow His steps."

"Signed, MARY ADELAIDE GILBERT, joined Knox's Church, Toronto, 7th February, 1847, aged 16 years."

"My life, O Lord, is Thine, strengthen me with strength from on High."

"Monday morning.—Strengthen me, O Lord. May I not leave my religion at Thy table, but may I bring it into the world, and into my domestic circle; and may I follow Thy own Servant's advice, when he said, 'Be not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.' May I keep these words always before me, and practice them in my life."

"Evening.—Meeting for thanksgiving and prayer conducted by our dear minister, who reviewed the subjects treated of on the preceding days; addressed communicants in a touching and affecting manner, and commended them to the Master of the Feast. I think I was the youngest communicant; but, I trust that like John, who we are told was the youngest disciple of Jesus, I may have had a place on the bosom of our blessed Emmanuel. Give me strength, O God, to resist the Devil and all his temptations which are around me—increase my love to thee."

After the communion season was over, I remember asking her how she had enjoyed it?—She had not been satisfied with the answer she gave me, for next day I received another letter from her:—

MY DEAR MRS. B.

The question you so kindly asked me this evening, required I thought, a more explicit answer than the one I gave you at the time, and I therefore take the liberty of writing these few lines, as