

"Thank you," said the woman, "I am very warm and thirsty, but most people don't notice that."

Nellie returned quickly with a goblet of ice-cold water, which the woman drank with evident satisfaction, and then went out into the heat again.

That evening, as they gathered round the tea-table, Nellie's brother mischievously said :—

"Mother, Nell's getting precious mean ; a poor woman came to the door to-day and she actually offered her a glass of cold water, and let her go away with that and nothing else."

Nellie laughed and said that, finding it too warm to take anything but ice-water herself, she presumed the woman felt the same. But still the joke was kept up, and for a few days, if any one came asking for food, it was suggested that Nell should bring a goblet of ice-water.

"Never mind," she thought to herself, "I did it for a reward, and it will come some day."

At last the joke died out, as all things will, and even the dream of the promised reward faded from Nellie's memory. It was the only religious act in a life of self-indulgence ; but who will say that, when two years later Nellie stood at the baptismal font in a little chapel, and received the regenerating waters of Baptism at the hands of the priest of the one true Church, it was not a reward from Him whose munificence is without bounds.

In relating this incident to me, Nellie said :—"People so often have asked me what I had ever done that obtained for me the grace to become a Catholic, and I always said I did not remember to have performed a good deed for God while I was a Protestant. But one day the remembrance of my hoped-for reward came into my mind, and I felt that Our Lord had indeed rewarded me a thousand-fold."

S. M. C.