

seems light in comparison. But you will marry y Agnes."

"No, dear, I shall never marry," replied Agnes. "There is a place in the church for virgins, and the field is enlarging. Some unmarried are needed for Christian work, and I have devoted myself to a life of celibacy for this reason."

"They will point at you as a 'spinster lady,'" said Lucelle, laughing.

"Very well," replied Agnes, "let people do so. And who is so beautiful as a sweet old maid? I have loved once. My lover is dead, and I could never love again in just the same way. I am glad, too, that I loved once. It brought me into a world unsuspected until I loved Horace Starr. Disappointment and sorrow have taught me much that I would never have known otherwise. My world is wider now, and my sympathies are deeper and more practical. I see men and women differently now. In all their sorrows I can be a partner with them as I could not before. All my love and all my labors now shall be given to Him who first loved me, and I am sweetly content."

In reply Lucelle recited a stanza:

"This thing on which thy heart was set, this thing that can never be,  
This weary, disappointing day that dawns, my friend, for thee—  
Be comforted; God knoweth best, the God whose name is Love,  
Whose tender care is evermore our passing lives above,  
He sends the disappointment. Well, then, take it from His hand.  
Shall God's appointment seem less good than what thyself has planned?"