

had not been brought to place themselves, body and soul, in the hands of their Heavenly Father.

In after days, when they looked back upon the trials they were now passing through, and upon the dark path they now trod, they did so, not with regret, but with heartfelt thankfulness, for they recognised God's hand in leading them through the fire of affliction to bring them out purified and made fit for the Master's service.

William's first question was whether there had been any letter from Mr. White ; and on being answered in the negative, he seemed for a moment to lose all hope, but seeing how distressed his wife was, he endeavoured to speak cheerfully and raise her spirits :

" I may be better soon," he said, " and able to work again, and then all will be right, and in the meantime we must do the best we can."

It was not much comfort that William could give Susan ; but, like a kind husband, he did all he could to put things in a bright light.

That evening, when Susan was sitting at work, she thought of her dead mother, and remembered how, when *she* was in trouble of any kind, she had recourse to her Bible, and how she always found help and comfort in that book ; and she reached down *hers* from the shelf where it had too long lain unnoticed, and, turning over the leaves at random, she stopped at the hundred and third Psalm ; she had caught sight of the word " father " in the thirteenth verse, and that word attracted her notice, and she read the verse through, " Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him."

Having read the verse, Susan closed the book with a sigh.

" Like as a father," she said, " not more than that ? Oh ! if God has no more pity on me than my father has, what will become of us ? And then it says He pitieth ' them that fear Him.' Can I say that I fear God ? If not, I have no right to expect His pity." And arguing with herself in this way