

In the beginning of the year 1857, a beautiful work of grace began among the young people frequenting the Baptist Chapel in Gosport where the Tilly family then attended.

Elizabeth P. Tilly had just spent the first month of her thirteenth year when, one day, in deep anxiety of mind, she went to a friend a little older than herself to enquire the way of salvation.

This friend, who was two years her senior, lived at Gosport, near Forton. Elizabeth opened her condition of mind to the young disciple of the Lord, when the latter wisely suggested a stroll into the country so that they might better have uninterrupted conversation on the momentous subject of salvation. What a lovely picture! Surely the Divine eye rested with complacency upon it!

After a long walk, the two English maidens reached a patch of woodland known as Rowner's Copse. It was in the month of April, near the close of it, when, in the genial climate of the extreme south of England, the buds, blossoms, and flowers open to the sun, display their beauty to the gaze and scatter their fragrance on the air.

The two girls retired to the open copse, and sat down upon the trunk of a fallen tree. The only sounds around them were those of nature: the murmur of running water near by, the hum of numerous insects, and the song of birds.

The elder of the two opened her pocket Bible