

to Naomi are amongst the most beautiful in the human language. There is simplicity and beauty, reality and pathos, in them. Ruth was willing to leave her own land and go amongst strangers: she was willing to adopt the religion of Naomi, she would go with her till death and share her grace. Words can go no farther as an expression of fidelity. They bear the stamp of a loving heart. Ruth's character can be judged, not alone from her action in contrast to that of Orpah, but by these two verses in which she reveals the depth of her love.

A great Canadian statesman, in speaking of Canada's relation to the motherland, habitually quoted these verses as the ideal of unity between the two peoples, setting forth the difference between the imperial compulsion and a voluntary agreement through kinship of spirit. Ruth was under no obligation of custom: her fidelity was the outcome of her love.

*The Return to Bethlehem*, vs. 18-20. It was a strange returning for Naomi, coming back as a widow, without her two sons and accompanied only by the Moabitish Ruth. The people of Bethlehem were touched by the pathos of it and "all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?" Such domestic tragedies are not uncommon. There have been many such amongst immigrants who have gone to a colony and lost the support of the home through accident or disease, and been forced to return to the homeland alone. During the War there have been many close parallels, a mother losing five sons, a wife losing a husband, a girl becoming a bride, a mother and a widow in one year. The heartache of homes never ceases.

## FOR TEACHERS IN THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

Teachers in the Adult Department should study carefully the scholars' materials in the HOME STUDY QUARTERLY or the PATHFINDER.

In introducing the lesson to-day draw the attention of the class to some of the outstanding features of the book of Ruth. Show that, while it appears as a separate book, it really takes its place alongside the stories of the Book of Judges. And yet it has this distinction, that instead of war and political struggle, we have an account of "such little

*Bitterness against providence*, vs. 20-22. Naomi felt that her name, which in Hebrew means pleasant, was inappropriate for her, and she said, "Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty." Distrust in Providence arises, not so much from theoretical difficulties of belief, as from the cruelties of personal experience. When youth is cut off, when the angel of birth and of death enters a household on the same day, when an epidemic takes away a mother from helpless children, when accident destroys the usefulness of a Christian worker, then it is hard to hold faith in the wise and loving providence of God.

Our faith wavers when we look at isolated cases, but our faith becomes strong again when we take a broad view that regards single events as part of a whole. If we have not this attitude, we are likely to say with Jacob, "All things are against me." When we take the larger view, we have faith to say with Paul, "All things work together for good." Christ teaches us the patience in which we may win our souls. The disasters of personal experience overwhelmed him, but his faith in the Father God upheld him to the end.

*The Spirit of Friendship*. Friendship which rests on the foundation of self-interest, or nationality or class, will not endure the tests of life. Unless it is a reality of the heart, it will suffer change and decay. The story of Ruth and her devotion to Naomi in her loneliness gives to us an ideal of disinterested friendship that will stand the shocks of change and the cruelties of circumstance. It is akin to the love of God which Christ can shed abroad in our hearts.

things as are great to the little man of every day life." The book is full of information as to the habits and customs of a far-off day. Call attention to the note of transparent simplicity pervading the book.

1. *The Story of Three Women*, vs. 14, 15. Briefly review the story up to this point, indicating on the map the nearness of Moab