

"She has made up her mind," thought Mrs. Seymour, but she said nothing unless it was to the Friend and Counsellor in whose wisdom she trusted.

"You have not even asked your herald what she was going to proclaim," said Helen, mischievously, as she came to say good-bye on the afternoon of the meeting.

"You're not my herald, dear," said her aunt, "you are the herald of the kingdom, and the Master told His messengers what they were to proclaim. 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand;' that was the message He gave them."

Helen hesitated a minute at the door. "I wish you were going to proclaim it yourself," she said. "Isn't there another verse that says, 'The kingdom of heaven is within you'?" and without waiting for an answer she went away.

In the dusk of the evening Helen sat beside the sofa with the thin, white hand of the invalid held between both her own while she told the story.

"The parlors were just full, and that was a surprise to begin with, and everybody was chattering, and laughing, and having a good time. Mrs. White introduced all the newcomers, so they would enjoy the meeting better. Ever so many people spoke to me, and said lovely things about you, as they ought, and lovely things about me which I didn't at all deserve; so that, really, by the time they began I felt quite as if I belonged, and almost forgot I didn't believe in foreign missions.

"Somebody who had promised to sing was not there, and before I knew it I was sitting at the piano and singing, 'In heavenly love abiding.' I chose that for you, Auntie; but there was a dear little woman in shabby black, sitting where I couldn't help seeing her, with the tears running down her face; and when I went back to my seat she caught my hand and whispered, 'Bless you, child.'

"I'm afraid I wasn't attending much to the Scripture lesson until I waked up to hear something about the Lord's messengers, and how they were sent out to bind up the broken-hearted, and set at liberty the captives, and all the rest of that chapter that I supposed just meant Christ. But Mrs. Norton made it so plain that Christ passed his work on to His disciples; and then she turned to Revelation, and showed us that it was not just ministers, and missionaries, and people with a special call who were messengers of the kingdom, but 'whosoever heareth' was to say Come, and that meant all of us. Then Mrs. Latimer prayed. Did you ever hear Mrs. Latimer pray, Aunt Mary?"