

to each the name by which it should ever afterward be known. But though Adam had dominion over every living thing, and was set in the midst of all the beautiful things that prolific and exuberant nature could yield, he was nevertheless lonesome, and sighed for a companionship which nothing that God had yet made could supply. The birds of the air builded their nests and warbled sweetly their orisons together, while the beasts of the field lay down beside each other or sported over the green fields in happy freedom and joyful communication. Adam alone was without a mate to share the pleasures of Eden with him, a lonely creature amid the splendors of paradise.

God had compassion upon Adam, however, and resolved to give him a companion that should make happy the days, and fill his heart with renewed thanksgiving. Accordingly, God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and while he slept a rib was taken from his side, which God fashioned into a woman, and when Adam awoke the most beautiful of all of God's creatures stood before him to be his companion for life, a joy unspeakable to his heart, a peace pure and perfect to his soul. This was the birth of love, the holiest feeling that God ever planted in human breast, the link that binds us in image, likeness, and aspirations to God the Father, the bond that neither time nor grave can sever.

Now was Adam happy, and the companion whom God had thus provided, whose name was called Eve, ministered to his joy as only a loving wife can. How were their hearts gladdened by the pride that burst from every flower scattering its incense, and every tree laughing with its golden fruit, and every herb yielding its succulent roots. But with all these wayside pleasures, limpid streams, musical winds, singing birds, delicious fruits, fragrant buds, and eyes that reflected love's image, hearts speaking loyal devotion, and words garlanded with honeyed phrases, there was that in the midst of these which should turn the heart from loving and the soul from thankfulness. Within this beautiful garden there was a serpent tempter, who was more cunning than any beast of the field, and he came to Eve, assuming the appearance of one wise, and said, "Yea, hath God said ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

Then Eve answered him by saying they were permitted to eat the fruit of every tree in the garden except of the one which stood in the centre, and this they were forbidden even to touch under penalty of death. The tempter, however, beguiled her with assurances that the fruit was not hurtful, but as grateful to the taste as to the sight, and, moreover, that the eating of it would make her as wise as God himself. These specious promises at length so excited the curiosity of Eve that she took the fruit and ate of it, and finding it pleasant to the taste, she persuaded Adam also to eat. When they had committed this great sin they heard the voice of God calling to them in the garden, and they hid themselves, being conscious of their guilt, and fear-stricken for the punishment that they had thus merited.

God asked Adam and Eve if they had eaten of the forbidden fruit, to which