

things that could come to them. One day a letter appeared that had a great deal of information in it, a good deal of advice also about the affairs at home, and some special messages to various ones in the family. Perhaps little Fanny didn't understand all her father had to say about the marching and camping and what not of soldier life, or all he recommended in business matters at home; but she listened with the rest in happy confidence that all father wrote was wise and good. One thing she *did* understand without explanation, and that was his message of love to herself.

"A few days after this letter arrived, Mrs. Morris was very busy, and, not wishing to be disturbed with the child's play, she asked Fanny if she wouldn't like to go and sit in the next room and read papa's letter all to herself. Fanny was delighted to do so. For a half hour or more the mother overheard her prattling over the letter, but every moment repeating the sentence so dear to her little heart: "Papa sends his love to Fanny." Sometimes she talked of other matters in the letter, revealing how much or how little she took their real meaning; but the loyal little daughter never failed to close her sentence with the words she could not fail to understand aright, "Papa sends his love to Fanny."

"The Bible is the letter of the Father in heaven to his family on earth. In it are some things the strong and the wise must study deeply to comprehend. But there is one thing in the letter that the simple ones and the little ones can make no mistake in; that is the message of love He sends to each one. It is to you, Mary, or it should be, what Fanny's message from her father was to her. It was the matter she perfectly understood and that she completely delighted in."

"But Fanny remembered her father, Granny. She had seen his face and heard his voice and taken hold of his hand, and so she could realize his love to her."

"Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." You asked me the other day what faith is. Here is one meaning and one opportunity of faith, just the faith that God asks and requires of you. It is, without seeing the Father in heaven, to believe as though you had seen. Fanny's faith, that is, confidence in her absent father and in his message to her, was perfect; no doubt troubled her little heart. She didn't say, "It doesn't seem as if papa sent me that word from so far off": she simply believed it; she repeated the message; she sang it; and her little heart responded to it in happy love and trust."

"I have thought a great many times I wish I could feel so towards my Father in heaven; I wish He could seem as real to me as Fanny's father did to her."

"My dear, it is the Holy Spirit who only can make this clear to your mind and true to your heart. Ask God to give you that Spirit, that you may truly know the word He has sent to you. And then, Mary dear, having thus asked God, you must do exactly as you would if He seemed as real to you as any one your eyes can see."—*Herald of Mercy.*

## A RECORDING SECRETARY.

MISS E. THORNE.

 HERE are Recording Secretaries and Recording Secretaries. Allow me to paint an ideal one, and to point out some of her many duties: She records and reads the minutes of her Auxiliary. To do even so simple a thing well, she must possess certain qualifications: 1. A clear distinct voice in order that the minutes may be read so as to be heard by all pleasantly. 2. A certain power of written expression, so that her own impressions may be clear to others. 3. A quick brain; whereby she comprehends readily the suggestions given, and in this way prevents many wearisome discussions over insignificant details. 4. A discriminating brain; she knows what to record and what to reject. 5. A methodical brain; so that she arranges her resolutions and reports in the best manner to be understood by her successors or herself in the future as references. With this end in view she makes judicious use of red ink; anything important enough to be needed again, is carefully underlined, and so easily turned up when required. 6. A good memory for all business transactions; she keeps herself familiar with the past records and in this way often prevents contradictory or useless resolutions. She knows the Constitution and Bye-laws thoroughly. All this is a great help to the presiding officer, who, often in the excitement and worry consequent upon her duties, forgets little things. A wise secretary is ready to quietly prompt her weary chief. She will also help her in many other little ways. For instance, on coming to the meeting; she will bring a written list of Committees who have to report, and of any unfinished business recorded in the minutes, or any routine business that she knows should be attended to that day. 7. She is regular in her attendance. It throws a serious damper upon a meeting to begin it without the reading of the minutes. If she must be absent she notifies the president and sends the Record-Book. 8. She is punctual; indeed always a little ahead of time. This gives an opportunity to arrange little affairs with the other officers. 9. She writes plain and impressive notices of all regular and special meetings. 10. She assists the Cor.-Sec'y in the writing of the Annual Report. 11. She considers her office the most important office in the Auxiliary. Given an Auxiliary where each officer thinks this of her especial office, and we have the most successful one in this or any branch. 12. Of course she loves the missionary work—this is last but not least in the list of requirements and duties. She must have heard the Master's call to herself, "Go," "Send."

This is our ideal portrait. We trust it is not an impossible real one. Perchance the original sits before us as the representative from many an Auxiliary. She may not recognize herself—perhaps her President does. Do not let our picture depress anyone. If she feels she is not all "our fancy painted," but has conscientiously done her best, let her read Browning's words in Saul:

What stops my Despair?  
This; 'tis not what man *does* that exalts him,  
But what man *would* do!