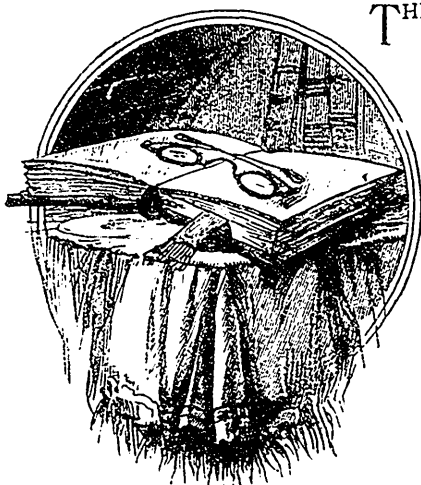


"COMFORTABLE WORDS."

BY LAURA L. PRATT, *Author of "Plucked from the Burning," etc.*

"Come ye yourselves apart."—ST. MARK vi. 31.



THE Apostles had been very busy. They had been preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and healing the sick. Our verse tells us that "they had no leisure so much as to eat."

So anxious were the people to come and be healed that the Apostles had not time even to eat their meals.

In these days it is no uncommon thing for a busy doctor to be hardly able to find time to eat; and no wonder that when sick people could go to the Apostles and come away *cured*, that "many were coming and going."

The Apostles could not go on without the help of their Master, so "they gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told *Him all things*, both what they had done and what they had taught."

Then what did the Lord Jesus do? He took them apart.

Does He not act with us in the same way now? We may not recognise that it is His doing, but, nevertheless, it is. Perhaps the father or mother of a family, one who has

toiled early and late for the benefit of the children, and who has had no time for God's service, is laid on a bed of sickness; it is the Voice of Jesus, saying, "Come ye yourself apart." Just at first you may not be able to hear that it is the Voice of Love. Very likely you will say—

"Oh, why has this trouble come to me?" The father will think, "Who will earn the children's bread?"

The mother will think, "Who will look after the household affairs?"

But just tell Jesus "all things." As you lie on your sick-bed just speak to Him as you would to a beloved and trusted earthly friend, and remember that He will hear you.

Now, what did the Lord take His Apostles apart for? It was to "rest awhile."

Let your sickness be a time of rest. Yes, it may be that, even if it is a time of bodily suffering. "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him." If you could put all your affairs into the hands of some earthly friend, whom you knew was both able and willing to look after house, and children, and work, would you not gladly do it? Then trust all to your Heavenly Father, and leave the issues in His Hands. He is far more powerful than the greatest of human beings. "Cast all your care upon Him, for He careth for you." Depend upon it that there is a "needs be" in your affliction. Do not miss the lesson that God would have you learn.

Where did the Lord Jesus take His Apostles? "Into a *desert place*." But He was with them; He did not *send* them there; He went with them. So He will be with you all through this time of sickness—able to support you in pain and weakness, able to make you patient in suffering, able to take care of all dear to you, "able to save," able to raise you up to health again, or to take you to dwell for ever with Him, "which is far better."

But all these promises are only for those who are His blood-bought children. The Apostles had accepted Him as their Saviour; each one knew what it was to have personally come to Him, and so must you. You must know Him as your *own* Saviour. He will enable you to come to Him, and He will receive you. Then do not delay; go to Him at once; never mind how feeble you are. He has said, "Whosoever cometh unto Me I will in nowise cast out."

Then all His promises are yours, all His comforts, all His love; and in sickness or in health, in joy or in sorrow, you will be able to say,—

"Though we pass through tribulation,  
All will be well.  
Ours is such a full salvation,  
All, all, is well.

On our Father's love relying,  
Jesus every need supplying,  
Or in living, or in dying,  
All must be well."

THE young men are the backbone of the country. If they go right the country will go right; if they go wrong the country will go wrong; and if they are neglected a day of reckoning will surely come.—EARL CAIRNS.