

“HE WAS CLOSE TO ME.”

AN active Christian friend of mine one day requested me to visit a young woman, who, for several months, had been suffering from an illness which had defied the skill of three medical men, and which at times brought on very great agony. “She is resting on the true foundation,” he said; “and it is a great pleasure and privilege to visit her.”

Though quite a stranger to me, I felt strongly desirous of seeing one who was keeping very close to the Master’s side, whilst she patiently awaited the summons, “Come up hither.” I shall not soon forget the moment when I entered the invalid’s room. Her face was lit up with such a joyous light, that I said to myself, “Surely she is on the threshold of heaven, and its glory is already streaming upon her.”

In answer to a question, she said: “I have several times been thought to be dying; and I believe it is God’s will that I should be with Him above. Sometimes I feel so near to eternity, that it seems as though but the lifting of a curtain would introduce me to the eternal world.”

“Have you any desire to live?” I asked.

“Only that I may do something for God!” she replied, with a happy smile; “but for eight weeks I have not prayed either to recover or to depart, for I desire to give my will entirely up to the Lord’s. Should He see fit to remove me, as I think He will, I shall be so glad to go to Him! But if He should raise me up—and I know that all power belongs

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