

to whom I could tell my little sorrows, no one to read to me the story of Jesus' life, how he called little children like lambs to his fold, to repeat the wonderful events of Calvary and the cross, to tell me that it was for my sin that Christ had died. Others might try but they could not do it as father had. His prayers can never be forgotten. His teachings have been indelibly stamped upon mind and heart. His precepts were lofty, his motives were pure. He, doubtless, had his faults, but filial love fails to discover them—he was my father. And in the long years that have since rolled by, how much I have missed the affection and protection of both father and mother. Sometimes it almost seems that they are lost to me forever, but, no.

“They are not lost; they are within the door  
That shuts out loss and every hurtful thing;  
With Angels bright, and loved ones gone before,  
In the Redeemer's presence evermore.  
And God himself their Lord, and Judge, and King.”

The path trodden without parental guidance has been a crooked one; the world has often been cold and cheerless. The blasts of adversity have been keenly piercing, while my poor heart has always yearned for sympathy, for that sympathy felt and given by a fond parent only.

But still it is for me to record the goodness and faithfulness of the “Father of the Fatherless,” while in the gloom I cry :

The way is dark, my father! Cloud on cloud  
Is gathering thickly o'er my head, and loud  
The thunders roar above me. See, I stand  
Like one bewildered! Father, take my hand!  
And through the gloom,  
Lead safely home,  
Thy child.”

IRA SMITH.

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WOMAN.—The great emblems of her sphere are the words *love, home, mother*. She is the object of the purest and most lasting earthly loves; she *makes* home, and the sacred word *mother*, speaks for itself to every heart. A mother's love is a golden cord, twining around each heart in the home-circle, and binding all firmly together.

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FRIENDSHIP.—He that does a base thing in zeal for his friend, burns the golden thread that ties their hearts together.