

"Only just come in," said her husband cheerily, "and very late, too. I see it all now. You expected me at the usual time, and got nervous with waiting. But did you not get my telegram?"

"Telegram?"

"Yes. Uncle John called, and said I must go home with him to dinner, as he wanted to talk to me on matters of importance. He would take no denial, so I at once telegraphed you that I should not be home till ten, and you ought to have had it by four."

Mary's heart began to lighten a little, but still a feeling as of nightmare weighed her down, and she could not shake it off.

"But I thought ——" she began; but George would not let her continue. "Keep quiet, dear, awhile. You have had some unpleasant fancies, I expect, through my unaccountable lateness. But it is all over now. And what do you think Uncle John wanted me for? If you were well I should tantalise you a bit, but I haven't the heart to do it now. He has offered to take me as a partner, and we shall not have to go into the horrid country after all. There, that will cheer you."

"I will go where you like, dear George, if you will take such a good-for-nothing with you."

The reply was not given in words, but it was none the less satisfactory.

From that day Mary ceased to oppose her will to her husband's. If ever she felt inclined to rebel, a grim spectre arose to drive her back. But it was a long time before she could bring herself to confide to him the terrible picture which her fancy had conjured up from the scene of that morning, and the emotions and forebodings of her remorseful heart.

N. G. B.

St. Bartholomew.



THE Gospels expressly state that St. Bartholomew was one of the twelve Apostles. It is, however, supposed that he was the same as Nathanael, since the evangelists who mention Bartholomew say nothing of Nathanael, and St. John, who mentions Nathanael, does not name Bartholomew. In St. John, we find Philip and Nathanael joined together in their coming to Christ, and in the rest of the evangelists Philip and Bartholomew are constantly put together, probably because they were jointly called to the apostleship.

When our Lord appeared to His apostles on the shore of Tiberias, after His resurrection, we read that there were together Simon Peter, and Thomas, and Nathanael, of Cana in Galilee, and the two sons of Zebedee, and two other of His disciples, who probably were Andrew and Philip (St. John xxi, 1, 2). Moreover, if Nathanael had been only a disciple, and not an apostle already, we may be sure that he would have been named as well as Barsabas and Matthias, to fill the vacancy made by the death of Judas.

Indeed, Bartholomew means no more than *the son of Tholmai* (a common name among the Jews), and Nathanael may have been called Bartholomew, just as St. Peter was called Bar-Jona, and Joses was called Barnabas. (Acts iv. 36.)