

not be much worse than I was, and said, "I'll go, by the help of God." I was rather ashamed to be seen going, for the shop doors, as they are wont to be, were crowded by spectators to see as they thought, a foolish woman, going twice in one day to an hotel. Some laughed, some mocked, others pitied my weakness. But I went, and the kindness of the lady did me good; then we knelt down in her house and I prayed a few words. It was at this very time that the reproach fell so heavily upon Sister Ann; for as I came home I met her, and the tailor had said to her as she was passing, "Ha, you did not stay long to-night!" meaning it in way of reproach; for hitherto the good sister and I had often held sweet communion together, which was sometimes called 'gossiping.' This word I detest and abhor; and if there is anything robs God of His glory, it is gossiping. I have suffered so much from the revelations that God has been pleased to reveal to me, of people trying to injure me and my family just for my work's sake. My very best friends yielded sadly and sorely to this evil; and it was not tales carried unto me, for at the very time, that God showed me He would do so much in this work, not one person of all my old acquaintance stood in my house for three months. Was this the way the Christians did of old?

Or, was it the best way for all my pretended friends to forsake me; for their actions led me to come to the conclusion that they were only pretended friends. They little saw what work God was doing through me. It was supposed that, at this time, I did nothing but run about; but I never worked so hard, for I dare not be idle a moment for fear of frowns or black looks; and I trembled at the very looks that were cast upon me by the inmates of my own dwelling.

But, to return to the carrying of the messages. The next command came, "Go to the post-office and tell the good brother there, that he is a man of God himself, but his family hinders him." What hindrance did God mean? They hindered his business; and, how often has it been said that only for such and such things he would do more business, which was just God's meaning. The next day, God says to me, "Go back." But