

catch her meaning, "that means that she'll be a helpless sufferer a' her days."

I soon found myself at Esther's home, which was about two miles distant. Her father combined the callings of fisherman and small farmer, and her mother, a cleanly, kindly-looking woman, was driving the cows to the pasture when I approached. She did not seem to consider me a stranger when I told her my name and the purpose of my visit. Entering the house, I found poor Esther thin and pale, and with the marks of suffering imprinted on her features. She was lying on a couch near the fire-place, and three or four children ranged in front of her.

"Gang awa' hame noo, bairns," said the mother, "an' dinna come back the day again. Esther's ower ill to be able to be fashed wi' ye."

Esther appeared to be about to remonstrate, but as her eye followed the children she caught sight of me. She immediately recognised me, and we exchanged some greetings, which on my part were full of regrets and expressions of sympathy.

"Oh," said Esther, "it has been a very happy time for me. It was long my wish that there was some college that I could go to, and I am passing through one now, and, I hope, learning something."

"And yet the fulfilment of your wish is very different from what you hoped for."

"Yes, no doubt—very different; but also, I am sure, much better. Oh yes, I hope I know a little now of what, you remember, you called the highest education."

A very delightful conversation followed. Esther's heart had been touched and her mind enlightened by the Holy Spirit of God. She had no ambition now but to love with supreme affection Him who had loved her, and washed her from her sins in His own blood, and to glorify her Father in heaven by surrendering her whole desires to His will.

"It is well with me," she said, "and all for the best. Sometimes it is hard to feel this; but then I *know* that it is