

been told of the battle she fought successfully against a visitation of diphtheria from which they suffered. During many weeks their mother's watching and attendance were so close that she never had on her usual clothes, but wore only a dressing-gown.

After the diphtheria was nearly overcome in her own house, it showed itself at one of the farms on the estate, and Lady Blanche had great concern for the people who were now in like anxiety with herself for their children. She visited the families daily, carefully changing her dress for the visit, and going out and in by the steps from her boudoir window, as a precaution against bringing the illness to her servants, who had been kept as completely separate from her own family as possible.

The Cotton Famine in Lancashire during the American civil war stirred her sympathy greatly. She joined, I do not doubt, in subscribing to the fund for its relief, and, as it happened at the time that her establishment had been reduced—probably with a view to her going abroad with her children—she used the opportunity to make a novel proposal to them. They were told that, if they liked to do the work of the house, any money that was saved in this way would go to the help of the distressed people. When they agreed to take this up the house was divided. The kitchen was made over to Lady Blanche's daughters, who, after the two eldest had a few lessons from the cook before she left, did the family cooking, with the assistance, for the roughest work, of only two quite untrained Lancashire girls. Lady Blanche's sons had also work of the house which they could do allotted them, such as cleaning of boots and knives. The help sent to Lancashire was greater by the amount saved in household ex-

penses; her children had the sense of giving this share of help through their own labour and self-denial; and they had besides a discipline of great value, as no doubt their mother intended, in the thorough knowledge acquired of details of housekeeping, and in the check given to dependence on comforts.

What first struck me, I think, when I came to know Lady Blanche at her home at Whittingehame was her originality of thinking and of life. She talked on many subjects, not least readily on those that were Biblical, and always with interest in whatever was fresh, and tolerance of whatever was real. But her originality was not only that which comes of intellectual vigour. It was due still more to her singleness of purpose in life and her unhesitating courage in carrying out anything which she thought to be right.

To her own family what would first occur in thinking of her would be (as one of them expressed it) "her capacity of loving, which it seemed impossible to get to the end of." She had that devotion to them, which made her, as it were, give her life for them in times of dangerous illness. But she had the rarer devotion which wholly gives up the everyday hours and thoughts. "I think," she said, "that the older life should be sacrificed to the younger," and she meant this in most practical truth. In the work of their upbringing she cut herself off not only from ordinary society, but even from all but very rare intercourse with many whom she loved greatly. And as time went on and her health grew worse she so husbanded her strength and reserved it for her children, that in vacation times, when all were at home, it was difficult to get her to attend to matters of business even of some importance. She plunged