

THE LADY AND THE ROBBER.

In a large, lone house situated in the south of England, there once lived a lady and her two maid-servants. They were far away from any human habitation, but they seemed to have felt no fear, and to have dwelt there peacefully and happily. It was the lady's custom to go round the house with her maids every evening, to see that all the windows and doors were properly secured.

One night she had accompanied them as usual, and ascertained that all was safe. They left her in the passage, close to her room, and then went to their own, which was quite at the other side of the house. As the lady opened her door she distinctly saw a man underneath her bed. What could she do? Her servants were far away, and could not hear her if she screamed for help; and even if they had come to her assistance, those three weak women were no match for a desperate housebreaker. How, then, did she act? She trusted in God. Quietly she closed the door, and locked it on the inside, which she was always in the habit of doing. She then leisurely brushed her hair, and putting on her gown, she took her Bible and sat down to read. She read aloud, and chose a chapter which had special reference to God's watchfulness over us, and care of us by night and by day. When it was finished, she knelt and prayed at great length, still uttering her words aloud, particularly commending herself and servants to God's protection, and dwelling upon their utter helplessness and dependence upon him to preserve them from all dangers.

At last she arose from her knees, put out her candle, and went to bed; but she did not sleep. After a few minutes she was conscious the man was standing by her bedside. He addressed her and told her not to be alarmed.

"I came here," said he, "to rob you; but after the words you have read, and the prayer you have uttered, no power on earth could induce me to hurt you, or touch a thing in your house. But you must remain perfectly quiet, and not attempt to interfere with me. I shall now give a signal to my companions, which they will understand, and then they will go away, and you may sleep in peace, for I give you

my solemn word that no one shall harm you, and not the smallest thing belonging to you shall be disturbed."

He then went to the window, opened it, and whistled softly. Returning to the lady's side, who had not spoken or moved, he said:

"Now I am going. Your prayer has been heard, and no harm will befall you."

He left the room, and soon all was quiet, and the lady fell asleep, still upheld by that calm and beautiful faith and trust.

When the morning dawned and she awoke, we may feel sure that she poured out her thanksgivings and praise to Him who had "defended" her under "His wings," and "kept" her "safe under His feathers," so that she was not afraid of any terror by night.

The man proved true to his word, and not a thing in her house was taken. O shall we not hope that his heart was changed from that day forth, and that he forsook his evil courses, and cried to that Saviour "who came to seek and to save that which was lost," and, even on the cross, did not reject the penitent thief!

From this true story let us learn to put our whole trust and confidence in God.—This lady's courage was indeed wonderful, but "the Lord was her defence upon her right hand," and with Him all things were possible.—[Monthly Packet for October.

We have received an extract from a letter fully corroborating the remarkable anecdote of "The Lady and the Robber," in your October number, and adding some facts that enhance the wonder and mercy of her escape. We quote the words of the letter:

"In the first place, the robber told her if she had given the slightest alarm and token of resistance, he was fully determined to murder her; so that it was really God's guidance that told her to follow the course she did. Then, before he went away, he said, 'I never heard such words before; I must have the book you read out of;' and carried off the Bible, willingly enough given, you may be sure. This happened many years ago, and only comparatively recently did the lady hear any more of him. She was attending a religious meeting in Yorkshire, where after