

that such a means of comfort would be a valuable helpmeet to the Bible-nurse in her ministrations among them, and enable her through its bodily aid to reach the heart of many a one grown hard and callous by the world's hard treatment and neglect. In the then infant state of the Blanket Society but few could be spared for lending, but three were at once devoted to the purpose, and were reserved for the aged who were sick of consumption, of whom several died that winter. Many cases of sickness in other forms were also pressing in need of warmth, so that the three blankets speedily became five, and then eight, and as more were urgently needed, and bed and body linen also frequently required, it was resolved, with the help of God and that of His people, to provide sufficient bed and body linen to be able to lend a set of each to twelve different sick or dying aged people, and that the counterpanes should be covered with washing Bible pictures and Scripture texts in large letters, so that in their solitary hours the poor lonely invalids might ever have passages of God's Word before them, to cheer, warn, direct, and form food for quiet thought and meditation.

The ladies connected with the Dorcas Society were appealed to for aid with the body linen, and at their sale in November several articles were handed over to us for these border-land, aged pilgrims. Other friends were appealed to for donations, and a little over £4 having been collected, the Blanket and Sheet Society undertook to make up the remainder.

It was deemed necessary to lend the things only through the Bible nurse, who thus in a measure becomes responsible for them; and it speaks well for the poor creatures, and, in cases of death, for those around them, that in no case have we lost a single article, and in only one instance have we had any trouble in recovering them, though they have been lent to a large number of persons, and proved the stepping-stones to much good, not only to the bodies, but also to the souls of our poor patients, of which many records could be made, though the full result is here beyond our ken, and will only be known when, by the light of Eternity, we are able to decipher the deeply deed-graven face of Time.

One poor aged woman, recently deceased of dropsy, was, when discovered, not only in a distressing state of destitution, but in a dreadful state of mental darkness. She had passed her threescore years and ten without knowing anything of the Saviour's love for her soul, but through the comforts and kindly ministrations rendered to her body, her heart, like that of Lydia, was opened to receive the truth, and though her bodily affliction was of so trying a nature that it was impossible for her ever to lie down, or even to sit without bending forward in a painful position, she yet

thanked and praised God again and again for her illness, since it had been the means of leading her to a knowledge of Christ, and she died a most joyful and blessed death, thanking and praising Him to the very last.

Surely here is food for encouragement to all engaged in work for Christ among the sick or aged! Is not this a brand plucked from the burning, and in the twelfth hour of her earthly day of life? Sow beside all waters, friends, however dark or turbid they may appear; you cannot tell what portion of the good seed shall take root in the thick, deep mud of ignorance, but the great day shall reveal it and its transforming power. Toil on! toil on! the harvest will come, and great will be your reward. We feel rich in the blessings called down upon us by the poor creatures who have benefited by this society, for we cannot believe that such prayers are lost.

In many cases we supplement the lending of the linen, etc., by gifts of dinner tickets for the Invalids' Dinner Table, by which they can either have sent to them a nice hot dinner of meat and vegetables, or a milk diet, or an order on the butcher for meat for beef tea, according as their cases may require. These are at all times very acceptable, and very gratefully received, and we wish we could give them to all in need, for they go very far towards restoring many to health, and where that is not possible, help to sustain nature in her conflict with disease and death. In every neighbourhood in this great city, cases of sickness among the poor are so numerous, that all we can do is but as a drop in the ocean, and in the neighbourhood surrounding our chapel we find it necessary with this little society to confine our attentions to the aged, else our applications would be far too numerous for us to supply, and these poor creatures are generally the most destitute both of comforts and friends.

Lately a visitor of the Visitation Society made known the case of a poor woman who was lying very ill, with not an article of clothing on her body, and a mere dirty rag as bed covering. A nice new long nightdress, and a set of bed-clothes, with other comforts, were at once sent to her, and she was soon made clean and comfortable, and such nourishment as she could take administered to her. The next day she died, and the people of the house begged earnestly that the nightdress might not be removed, she looked "so clean and pretty," they said, and as another garment of the kind would not have been procurable among all the inhabitants of the house, we allowed it to remain, and the poor creature was thus buried in the first nightdress she had probably ever worn. Such losses we must make up our minds to meet with, and hope we shall ever be enabled to replace them, that our stock may not decrease, and with it our means of usefulness.

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