

Do they listen to the voice, calling on them to rejoice,
In the knowledge of a God who loves them all?
Yes, they gladly hear the word of the handmaid of the Lord,
Gladly listen to the Master's gracious call.—*CHO.*

Like the woman at the well, some there are who haste to tell
Of the living waters, flowing now so free;
Come, they cry, and hear the story of a Man—the King of
glory,
Is not this the very Man for you and me?

Now, (God speed the lonely boat! O'er the waters may it
float,

On its errand of salvation far and near!
And God bless our sister too; may He keep her safely
through,
Every day and hour of the coming year!

JOHN CRAIG.

Cocanada, Christmas, 1894.

"THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER."

"Wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard
of Me."—*Acts 1:4*

Last words!—How fondly the memory lingers over last
words. To the one, who at the bidding of the Lord of
the harvest, turns his face toward a distant part of the
harvest field, leaving behind all the familiar scenes and
associations of early life, how unspeakably precious is
the recollection of the words wrung from the hearts of
father and mother in the parting hour, words in which
is focused all the burning love of parent-hearts, and in
which they fain would concentrate and reiterate all the
loving counsel of years gone by. Though thousands of
miles of land and sea may intervene between parents and
child, and busy days lengthen into years; though,
according to the purpose of Him "who worketh all
things after the counsel of His own will," the father and
mother may be called to higher service, yet those words
live on and on, and prove an inspiration each time the
memory reverts to them.

If this is so of words uttered by human lips on such
occasions, what of the words uttered by our Lord Jesus
Christ previous to His departure?

Having finished the work which His Father had given
Him to do in "abolishing death and bringing life and
immortality to light," the time for His departure was at
hand. Although He was so soon to be glorified with the
glory which He had with the Father before the world
was, He must needs tarry certain days with those, who
some three years before had left all things at His bidding,
but from whose hearts all hope had been crushed by His
ignominious death and mysterious disappearance from
the tomb. Forty days He tarried convincing them by
many signs that death had been unable to hold its prey,
and that He was indeed their risen Lord and Master.
By opening the scriptures to their understanding did He
prove their fulfilment in Himself. Having enlightened

their minds He committed to His disciples the propaga-
tion of the grandest theme that has ever employed
mortal tongue, and for the promulgation of which they
afterward partook of the baptism of His suffering.

He, who "took not on Him the nature of angels, but
who took on Him the seed of Abraham," knew the
insufficiency of the flesh for this undertaking, and "com-
manded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem,
but wait for the promise of the Father which, saith He,
ye have heard of me." . . . "Ye shall receive
power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."
In the rich treasury of promise this was pre-eminently
the promise. Uttered hundreds of years before by
prophetic lips, so oft repeated by our Lord to His
disciples, and now that the scriptures had been fulfilled
in Christ, the next in the line of fulfilment, well was it
designated the promise. Its fulfilment was to be to that
handful of men in the disseminating of the Gospel more
than the steam is to the heavily laden freight train on
the up grade. Without it all would be defeat and
disaster.

These words of Christ's are additionally important
from the fact that the work which He had just finished
had been wrought in the power of the Holy Ghost. We
read, "It came to pass that Jesus also being baptized
and praying, the heavens opened and the Holy Ghost
descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him."
"Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from
Jordan and was led, or driven, by the Spirit into the
wilderness. . . . And when the devil had ended all
the temptation he departed from Him for a season, and
Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee,
and there went out a fame of Him through all those
parts." Then again in His own words, "The Spirit of
the Lord is upon me, etc." Peter's testimony was,
"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost
and with power."

We say it met their greatest need, the fulfilment of
this promise. In the language of the day when it is
usual for men to take an extended university course
before they are considered capable of efficient service,
we ask where was the wisdom in the fact that the
immeasurably important work of laying the foundation
of a structure that was to outlast time was committed
to the hands of workmen so crude as fishermen, and others
as humble, whose illiteracy and ignorance were, as we
read, so perceptible to the men of letters of the time?

Where shall we turn for the solution to this mystery?
Where, if not to the record of their gloriously successful
labors, viz., the "Acts of the Apostles"?

As the new missionary sees his or her supply of furni-
ture progressing through the skill of the native carpenter
who so dexterously manipulates his saw, hammer, chisel,
and that marvel of ingenuity that does the work of brace
and bit, how infinitely more does he appreciate these

* An address by Miss Murray at the Cocanada Conference.