

It was like Alps on Alps piled up to heaven. Now came the question of separation from all my former friends, my brothers and sisters, and my dear mother! This seemed more than I could bear."

"O!" exclaimed Luella, "how different was your lot from mine; for when I came to Jesus, I came also to my friends who were already Christians. And yet in my heart I had to give up all; but God gave all back to me—minus my sins—with love, light, and heaven besides."

"I was soon led to see," I continued, "that if a man love father, mother, etc., more than Christ, he is not worthy of him, and that hence I must be willing to sever the dearest earthly ties, and welcome, if need be, the estate of him whose enemies are they of his own household. But my spirit struggled most and longest when I contemplated the effect of my course upon my mother, who would consider this a burning disgrace to the family name, and a stigma upon the Church of my fathers. In her view it was the greatest crime which her son could possibly commit! Her grief would be greater than could be caused by any calamity that might befall me, even death at the hands of an assassin, or on the gallows for capital crime; for to her I was to be as one hopelessly ruined for time and eternity! For weeks I hesitated at this point,