

pair of blankets would do something toward adding to the comfort of the couple. He had not thought that he would have the pleasure of taking them himself.

As he passed the window, the old woman was looking out, and he held up the parcel, thinking she would understand that he was bringing something for her. But she only frowned angrily, and shook her head. He opened the door, when the old woman bade him angrily begone. She did not want to buy any of his goods, she said; and slammed the door against him.

"Why," said he, "she thinks I want to sell them! No wonder she is so vexed, needing them so badly; I must make her understand it is a gift." He opened the door again and got in. More fiercely than ever, she bade him begone. He saw that she was stone deaf, and her daughter was not at home. What could he do? To leave the parcel was only to have it flung after him in the snow. "I will show her what it is," he said to himself; "perhaps she will understand then."

He untied the parcel, but the sight of the warm blankets only made her more conscious of her need and her poverty, and she turned away indignantly. "Why don't you go away? I have told you I don't want them." What could he do? He took one out and held it up full length and breadth, and smiled and nodded his head; but it seemed only like the insinuating wiles of some resolute pedlar, and aggravated her the more. "Why don't you go away, when I tell you?" she cried.

Then yet another effort suggested itself. Taking the blanket, he threw it right round her and burst into a hearty laugh. Then the meaning of it all flashed upon her. Looking up, almost afraid to ask the question, she asked, "For me?" He nodded his head and smiled.

Dear reader, did not the Lord say, "I will give you rest?" But have you taken it? Have you, with appropriating faith and an overflowing heart, said, "FOR ME?"

THE GRANDEST BLESSING.

Christ comes to the human soul to revive and to bless. He comes to bring forth the flowers and fruits of Paradise in the waste of the hardest and most uncultivated heart. He comes to make life richer and purer—to make even losses and afflictions the means of profit and reason for gratitude. He comes to open new fountains of joy in the heart, as the rain opens fountains in the desert and causes springs of living water to gush forth among the hills.

He comes to give us a purer atmosphere to breathe, and a brighter light to shine upon the path of duty, as the air is freshened by the summer shower and the sky is clearer when it has been darkened by the cloud and swept by the rain. He comes to bring forth in our souls the beautiful flowers of immortal hope and the golden harvests of eternal love, as the rain clothes the wastes with blossoms, covers the fields with grain and loads the orchards with fruits.

Christ comes to lift the heavy burdens from weary shoulders, to remove the fetters from suffering limbs