

He who giveth food "to the young ravens which cry," had gone before her, and insured her success. She was met by a Christian woman in the streets of Stockholm, and questioned as to her purpose. Immediately upon giving the proper answer, she was told that the French congregation of that city had taken up a collection, *the day before*, in behalf of the Lapps! We can readily imagine the surprise and joy of this weary pilgrim. Before she could present her request, it had been granted!

The few days she spent in Stockholm were full of activity and delight. She was graciously received by the king, who assured her of his patronage and support. She pleaded her cause before the Committee of the Swedish Missionary Society, and not in vain. She visited a number of excellent families, who made a collection for her. Having accomplished her object, she returned to her home, rejoicing in the kind sympathy which had been expressed, in the promises which had been made, and, still more, in the belief that the Lord had thoughts of mercy toward her people.

Nor was she the only recipient of good. Many who saw her were stimulated to a stronger faith and a purer love. Her example had shown what Christianity might achieve. As one of the results of her visit, a Cent Missionary Society (Association du Sou Missionnaire), formed by Pastor Rorich, of the French congregation, became so popular that it obtained in six months 8,350 francs for the support of schools in Lapland; so that the Swedish Missionary Society opened, in addition to the six schools which it had previously organized, two others, one in Wilhelmina, which Maria Mathsdotter calls her home.

Let us imagine ourselves to be in the study of Pastor Rorich, on the evening of October 30, 1866. We ask for tidings of his friend Maria. He has often made inquiries respecting her, he says; but he has always received the same answer: "Maria! It is not known where she is. She is wandering over the deserts of Lapland, accompanying her father's herds of reindeer." Presently a knock is heard. The door is opened. Two women enter the room, clothed in the northern costume already described. One is the cousin of Maria Mathsdotter; the other is Maria herself. She ap-

proaches the dear friend who has felt such an interest in her people, and offers her hand. It is a happy meeting! It would not be easy to decide who is the more joyful, the pastor or his *protégée*. But why has she come to Stockholm again? One such visit might well suffice for the longest life. Her story is somewhat remarkable.

Some parts of Lapland are occupied by Swedish colonists, whose mode of life, unlike that of the Lapps, is stationary. This difference occasions serious antagonisms. The latter are jealous of the encroachments which are made upon their broad pasture grounds; the former do not hesitate to shoot down any straggling reindeer that trespasses upon their premises. The district of Wilhelmina was greatly troubled by this question last summer; and it was decided that some one should personally represent the facts to the king and solicit his interposition. But who should do it? Not a man could be found who was willing to perform the service! All eyes, therefore, were turned to Maria Mathsdotter. She accepted the trust, and, with a cousin, set out upon the long journey.

It was not possible for her to restrict herself to the business which occasioned her visit. On the 31st of October she attended "a working meeting," held for the purpose of making clothing for the school-children of Lapland. "Her countenance breathed tranquil satisfaction," says Pastor Rorich, "and her look shone with ineffable joy." She "did not remain with her arms folded; she took up a pair of scissors and began cutting patterns and giving advice; and all our ladies were eager to receive such good directions." The meeting was closed with reading of the scriptures and prayer. "She wept much that evening," continues her excellent friend, "and pressed my hand cordially, saying, 'Thanks, thanks, my friend; we shall meet some day in heaven.' Then she began offering her hand to every one else, repeating her usual salutation, 'The peace of God be with you.'" She attended other meetings of the same character, and in various ways she gave a new impulse to the efforts which had been commenced in behalf of her people. On the 11th of November she set out on her return, going by steamer to Hernösand, whence she was to travel one hundred and fifty leagues on her skates.