

to the king, whatever it cost her, she would live! She pulled herself together with a desperate rally, and did live. But she failed to thrive. She was still quite unequal to the severe demands of her life in Siam. The king was very loath to let her go, but at last, after a year's querulous kicking against the pricks, and naggings on his part about "ingratitude and idleness," he was at length reluctantly compelled to give her six months' leave of absence.

So she quitted that dark place where she had been a steady light to many. It was with sore hearts that the women and children of the palace beheld their stout-hearted and compassionate champion leave them. Fortunately she had already seen them through their worst troubles. Not very long after her departure, the summons kings and clowns must answer came to their hard master and hers, to set out on his own far and final journey. He carried away with him for ever much of the evil system which had wrought the misery of those poor things. Under the mild reign of his successor, the gentle intelligent prince, her own apt scholar, good days were in store for them. The spirit implanted in this receptive heart by his "English governess" bore fruit in all sorts of blessed changes for Siam. Her six years' labour had not been, like David's dear-bought draught from the well of Bethlehem, as water spilt upon the ground. She had, without knowing it, made a great and enduring contribution to the regeneration of that sick land, by permanently impressing something of her own character and ideals upon the nobly plastic mind of the creator of modern Siam, Somdetch Maha Chulalonkorn. He never forgot her, or ceased to show with what reverence and gratitude he cherished her memory. A great part of Mrs. Leonowens still lives in the country where she "went forth in tears bearing precious seed," and loved and suffered much.

The gratitude and affection of her clients showed up in many touching ways as they took farewell of her. Those who could brought her small sums of money for her journey; and even the poorest slaves embarrassed her with their pathetically