

erty to practice my religion ; but they ridiculed it constantly before me. Oh, Miss Annie, I feared that I might be drawn into a terrible vortex, if I stayed with them — that I might cease to be “Mary’s Little Maid.” And as to my cousins, how could I be the means of exposing them also to temptation ? I remember that when, in my perplexity, I spoke of the matter to my spiritual director, he merely said : In this case, my child, there is only one rule for your conduct. It is very simple, and you know it by heart : *What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul.* Sadie and Ella are now married to excellent young men, who are faithful to their religious duties, steady and industrious. I do not think, taking the thought of their eternal welfare into the question, they could have done better.”

I cast my eyes down, abashed before this brave and noble girl : “Mary’s Little Maid,” in spirit and truth, who refused to endanger her hopes of a blessed eternity for the precarious advantages of this life. Her sublime courage and the loftiness of her principles made her appear so exalted in comparison with my worldly, narrowminded self, that I felt almost unworthy to hold intercourse with her. When we parted, I embraced her with tears, saying :

“God bless you, Mary’s Little Maid !” May you continue true until death to your powerful Patroness. She will be as faithful to reward you, as you have been careful to continue in her blessed service.”

On my next visit to the same city a few years later, I saw “Mary’s Little Maid ” again. She lay shrouded in white in her coffin before God’s holy altar, an image of Mary on her breast, and lilies-of-the-valley and forget-me-nots strewn over her silent form. As I had only reached the city on the previous evening, and had heard of my god-child’s death by a mere accident, I knew none of the particulars ; so I asked a lady present if she had died suddenly.

“Comparatively so,” she answered ; “she nursed her grandmother through her last illness, and took a cold