

rather than this Service. So would we all, I think !

So you see that on Christmas night, one is glad to think of our Chapel having been a stable, for His Sake Who was born in a stable.

But a vision ever floats before us, more or less unconsciously, more or less distinctly, in which we see a beautiful, stately Chapel rising here among the mountains, fit, in some poor measure, for His Worship "Whom the Heaven and the Heaven of heavens cannot contain." Such a building we see, perfect of its kind, in stately and beautiful proportion, the best that man can design and offer, to the great Maker of all ; wherein the daily Services may be offered to God, by an ever-increasing number of His children ; where the music is the best that can be offered ; where every detail is not only for God's Glory in the present, but also, in His Mercy, a sort of ideal, to be ever before the eyes of the embryo womanhood, developing beneath its shelter. Such an ideal as shall imbue her all unconsciously, with a "noble discontent" with anything less perfect anywhere else, where God may cast her lot.

It is too sadly true that through Woman, sin first came into the world, but Christmas night reminds us, how God allowed a Woman then, and still allows Women now, to do all they can to atone in some small measure, for the misery brought by a Woman on the whole human race.

It seems somehow as if God had given Women, for this purpose, an almost greater power than He has given men ; a power that will reach an end in view, and fulfil its purpose, in spite of obstacles which seem to men to be insurmountable.

So I think we shall find, in years

to come, that just in such measure as we have sown here, in beautifying and caring for God's House and His Service, so the harvest may be reaped by others, through God's House and Services, all over the country, being made more fitting and more beautiful, by the labours of faithful women, who shall have received their first training here, and who carry a high ideal with them.

This vision of ours is no new one ; it has been ever in our hearts and minds, more or less unconsciously, at times insistently coming to the fore. But when God sent difficulties in the way of its fulfilment, then we looked about us, and saw how much work needed to be done for the perfecting of the "Living Stones" for His Heavenly Temple.

We saw the "corner stones" waiting "unpolished," and we turned to do the work nearest to us then, obeying that call of God, that divinely-implanted instinct, which "needs must love the highest when we see it."

So, for the time being, we left off struggling to raise an earthly building, while we devoted all our energies and resources to the work God had then given us, of being fellow-workers together with Him, in so preparing those living stones, that, in the end, He may find them fitted to be built up an holy Temple acceptable to Him.

But never, through it all, forgetting the intense desire that, some day, He would vouchsafe to give us a building here, fit to offer to Him as an abiding place, where He may dwell amongst us, here, in this place, where the Standard of the Lord is lifted up among the mountains ; feeling that we had but to "tarry the Lord's leisure,"