

The Pastor Begins

ladies, discussing the summer's outing. The hostess had just returned from Europe the week before and was giving her impressions. She was a tall finely-proportioned woman of middle-age, with a genial manner and the evidences of culture in language and movement. She had been blessed with a goodly share of the world's wealth. During the past twenty years, her leisure moments, spared from her family, a husband and a little daughter, had been devoted to helping the poor, visiting the city hospitals and the sick in their homes. It was nothing to surprise anyone that the name of Mrs. Horace Melgrove should stand at the head of, and be identified with, several of the pious associations attached to St. Paul's Church.

Her two lady visitors were likewise well known as associates with her in various schemes for the betterment of the poor. The elder, Miss Rayford, was a quiet little woman of a distinctly literary turn of mind. She had, indeed, for years taken very great interest in works of outdoor charity, but nevertheless she still found time to write attractive stories and essays of a thoughtful character that made her known in many homes, not only of her own city, but abroad.

The other person in conference with Mrs. Melgrove was Mary Garvey, a lady somewhat vivacious, impressionable, open to a fault, and very energetic