

to lead; she could not help it. When spring came, she set her face toward the hills and mountains, for the better feeding of her charge. When autumn came, she turned back again upon the Gulf of Bothnia. What could *she* do for the elevation of the Lapps?

A strange thought one day sprang up in her mind. She could visit the king! She could tell her simple story; and, perhaps, from love to his people, he would aid her to establish a school in Wilhelmina, her native district. This would be a great boon; and God might be pleased to bestow a greater, even his sanctifying grace. By day and by night, month after month, she dwelt upon this plan. Often did she carry it to Him who heareth prayer; and her petitions were offered, there is reason to believe, in the simplest, truest faith. God *could* grant her request; of this she felt sure. At length she became satisfied that he *would* grant it.

At first, however, the obstacles appeared to be insurmountable. The distance was great, especially for a solitary female, and most of it was to be travelled on foot. She was an only child, moreover; how could her parents consent to her going? The undertaking was very hazardous; and she was constantly and greatly needed at home. Should she reach Stockholm in safety, she would find herself a stranger to everybody; and the language in use would be entirely different from hers. But none of these things moved her. As for the long journey,—she believed that God would keep her from the beginning to the end of it, and that was enough. As for the strange tongue,—she could learn it. As for the consent of her parents,—she would plead for it with them, and she would plead for it with Him who has all hearts in his hand; and she thought that it would be ready at the proper time. She seemed to hear a voice saying to her, "Go to the capital of the South, and ask for the succor which is needed."

She set herself resolutely and persistently to learn the language. To this end she procured books; and she made visits, as often as her reindeer charge would permit, to the Swedish-speaking pastors, whom she could see most easily. Nearly three years she devoted to the mastery of this new tongue. Meantime, she was entreating her parents to

sanction her purpose. They, however, besought her with tears to conceive of their bereaved and desolate condition, in case any disaster should befall her. They argued, further, that should she return in safety, weeks and months must elapse, during which they must receive from her none of the aid and comfort which were so necessary for them. But the path of duty seemed plainer and plainer, till at length she felt that the hour had come. She bade farewell to her parents, who wept bitterly for fear that they should see her face no more; and she started upon her long pilgrimage.

It was in the dead of a northern winter when she put on her Lapland skates, and turned her face to the South. The cold was intense. The days were very short, and the nights were very long. The route was all new to her; and yet, on every side, she saw the same wearisome prospect that had so often met her eye at home,—snow and ice, with few signs of life, stretching far away into the unknown. An heroic spirit was needed for such an endeavor; and such a spirit had been bestowed on this remarkable woman. Though she had no guide but the Omnipresent One, she did not hesitate to face the dangers that lay in her path. More than this, she rejoiced greatly in the prospect of accomplishing her benevolent design.

The Lord had heard her request; and he resolved to honor her faith. All along her journey, she found generous and sympathizing hearts. Nothing that she needed was withheld, till at length, having traversed those icy plains for hundreds of miles (two hundred leagues, it is said), she came to Gefle, where she took a public conveyance that carried her to the Swedish capital.

It was on the 3rd of March, 1864, that she first made her appearance in Stockholm. One who saw her has described her dress. It was singularly unfashionable; for she was clothed in a robe made of reindeer skins. She wore a bonnet that was "large," "red," and "very high." She was of medium height, and her complexion was "brown." Who would have selected such an one to bear an important petition to a king? On the other hand, "her face was full of intelligence." "Everything about her, in fact, denoted a superior woman."