

Recently I have made the acquaintance of Mr. James Parlane, of the firm of J. & R. Parlane, Paisley, who for many years published Miss Havergal's world-famed leaflets.

His relations with her were intimate and long continued, and his estimate of her worth is enthusiastically appreciative. He says: "She was the best example of Christian womanhood I ever knew; she may have had equals, but never a superior."

This testimony from a printing office is of the greatest value, for it enables us to see how Miss Havergal appeared to men of business. The letters which Miss Havergal wrote to the publisher of her leaflets have been carefully preserved, and I have had the privilege of looking over them. Though most of them are occupied with business matters, there are incidental references to that which was indeed her one business—the spiritual life.

With Mr. Parlane's permission, I am going to give some extracts from those letters—extracts in which the heart overflows in the midst of business-like instructions.

It is well known that Miss Havergal's sufferings were frequent and painful. How she carried herself in her sickness is instructive and inspiring. We cannot stay to consider the truth or untruth of her theory of disease. But it is certain her faith in God robbed disease of all power to afflict her soul, and made her in the most trying times calm and triumphant. With Wesley she could say:

In deep affliction blest,
With Thee I mount above,
And sing, *triumphantly distressed*,
Thine all-sufficient love.

In a letter, written in pencil, dated April 23rd, 1875, she says:

I am slowly recovering now,—my second illness, which began in January,

has been longer and more suffering than the first; and I am not to attempt or expect to be able for any sort of work for months yet. But I have been so very happy,—such numbers of promises "came true," and it *was worth any suffering to prove His tenderness and faithfulness*. Some day when His time comes, I hope to "tell it out" more clearly than before. I ought to:

To write such words on a sick-bed is only possible to those who live in fellowship with Him who said, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done."

In these business letters it is very clear that her first thought was,—how to reach and comfort other hearts. She seems entirely innocent of any thought of gain. What profits she did make from her publications were dedicated to religious and philanthropic uses. She literally carried out her own words,

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.

Not the gain of authorship, but the love of service, kept her pen at work. Hence, on June 3rd, 1872, she wrote:

I wish you never to be at any loss or risk in printing for me. If anything of mine really sells well enough to give you proper profit, then I will gladly accept what I want for my own use, i.e., for giving away.

She realized how "great" is the gain of godliness, and desired no other. Many, perhaps, who have read the "Life and Letters" of Frances Ridley Havergal, have felt, as they read, "I should have liked her better if she had been a little more earthly, and had taken more interest in common things."

These letters, however, show that though she was indeed an "angel in the house," she was "not too good for human nature's daily food."

The following extract will show that she was "very womanly," and