

closed. Her early aspirations were quickened and elevated by her conversion. She diligently improved her advantages and her opportunities—so much so, that she became not only proficient in the usual studies pursued by young ladies, but became equally so in several of the sciences, not then as now generally regarded as an open and an attractive field to the young lady of grace and accomplishment.

By the removal to a better world of a devoted mother, the cares of a mother largely devolved upon the senior daughter. The charge was great; and wisdom and grace were necessary in one upon whom, in early years, so grave a responsibility rested. God gave both the wisdom and the grace: Miss Austin was, to her brothers and sisters, mother, counsellor and friend. By her Christian example, precepts and prayers she was highly instrumental in the conversion to God of her brothers and sisters; and to-day, in more than one heart, there are cherished memories of her sisterly affection, prudence and piety.

In May, 1851, Miss Austin became the wife of Marshall B. Roblin, Esq., eldest son of J. P. Roblin, Ex-M.P. for the County of Prince Edward. Twenty-two years of unalloyed matrimonial bliss were hers. Rarely have matrimonial relations been so uninterruptedly joyous. Aside from personal afflictions and worldly mutations, the sky was cloudless,—one long-continued spring from the bridal-day till the hour death severed the silken bond that bound two loving hearts.

Mrs. Roblin, greatly favored and blessed of God as she was, nevertheless was no stranger to affliction. For nineteen years she was called to exemplify the sufficiency of God's grace in sustaining the sufferer. The warm affection the consecrated zeal, the cultured mind, the agile frame, would lead mortals instinctively to presume that God would be most glorified by the constant activity a vigorous health would permit. He saw otherwise! And He was glorified by the patient resignation, the cheerful acquiescence of His afflicted one. In the intervals of severe suffering and prolonged prostration, the zeal for God was constant in its active development. To her, as a Sabbath School teacher and as a Missionary collector, the church was deeply indebted; and not unfrequently labors of love were performed when the frail body might righteously have claimed exemption from toil in order to gain its recuperation in tranquility and repose.

The last two anniversaries of the Sabbath School, of which her loved husband was and still is the superintendent, found her an invalid. But in the invalid's chamber and on the invalid's bed, head and heart and hands were engaged for the Sunday School anniversaries. The Christmas-trees on these occasions owed much of their beauty as well as of their value to her who, in weakness as well as in strength, found a rich reward in attention to the command of the good Shepherd,—“*Feed my lambs.*” The Christian grace of Mrs. R. was usually more severely tried by inability to attend the house of the Lord than by physical suffering. And the latter was sometimes very acute, extorting the prayer, “O, for five minutes of relief from distress!” The writer has been repeatedly astonished at the *cheerfulness* of Mrs. R. during