

ence. Did not Robert Moffatt, David Livingstone, Alexander Duff, Mackay of Uganda, and a host of others, catch their first missionary zeal from the trembling lips and overflowing hearts of mothers? The Earl of Shaftesbury tells us that his work of rescue was really started by the guidance and influence of his nurse. Who shall tell us of the possible missionaries in our homes to-day? Oh, for consecrated Marys who will give their sons to Jesus Christ! What powers there are in the cradles and nurseries! Have you ever heard **the Parable of the Acorn?**

I plucked an acorn from the greenward and held it to my ear, and it seemed to say:

"By and bye, birds will come and make their nests in me; I shall be fuel and warmth for many homes; I shall protect cattle from the blazing sun and provide ribs for the sea-faring ships, so that the storms of the Atlantic will beat against their sides in vain."

"What? You poor, weak, insignificant little thing," said I. "Shall you be able to do this?"

"Yes," said the Acorn, "**God and I.**"

I took a little child and held it against my heart, and it seemed to say:

"By and bye, I shall grow strong and big, and I will love the Christ and give money to missionaries, or go myself and teach the heathen of a Saviour's love, and many shall be brought into the Kingdom."

"What? You poor, weak, frail little creature," said I, "shall you be able to do this?"

"Yes," and the child smiled into my eyes, "**Christ and I.**"

Mothers, wives, sisters, teachers, have you ever encouraged or suggested to those within your trust the idea of becoming a missionary? The honor of having a son or daughter in the ministry or upon the far distant veldt or plains pleading for Christ? Do you know that there is a man in our city of Montreal who has given four sons to the ministry? Or shall I not rather say that there is a mother? I wonder if her name is Mary. Are we prepared to send those who want to go? It would be a dreadful thing to have upon one's conscience that there was one ready to offer, and that our lack of help and sympathy kept her back. Are there not Marys of Cleophas among you all?