

esteem of those she admired, and the power of entering sympathetically into their views, were shown in a curious way at the several schools she attended. At Miss Wallington's school, at Nuneaton, she formed an attachment for the principal governess, a Miss Lewis, and became, like her friend, an ardent Evangelical Churchwoman. Later, when attending school in Coventry, she became enthusiastic in the Baptist tenets, and a leader of prayer-meetings among the girls. She is credited with having a deeply religious nature, but we doubt if her religious experiences were much more than the enthusiasm of sympathy.

During the first year after she left school her mother died, and her sister was married. Owing to these changes she became her father's housekeeper.

The first five years which followed were difficult years for a girl of Marian Evans' nature. A young creature, with a hungry intellect, and a soul alive to all the wonders of the world in which she found herself, and with a great yearning for beauty and the refinements of life, she had no one near her who could sympathize with these longings. Her brother, whom she had loved passionately when they were children, drifted away from her into his own pursuits, and there was never much congeniality between them. Perhaps there is no sadder trial for the young than a total lack of sympathy in those who are nearest to them by natural ties. It is hard to know that what for them is all aglow with divine light is a blank to those around them, as Paul's heavenly vision was to his companions on the road to Damascus. As one grows older one ceases to demand understanding and agreement with one's feelings and beliefs, and learns to accept as very precious even the love which has no power to sound one's being.

But it was not possible at any time for Marian Evans to give strong affection where she could not receive intellectual sympathy and benefit. When at school she formed none of those warm friendships which school-girls make, and which often last through life. Miss Lewis, the one friend she made then, she outgrew and dropped entirely when she formed the Coventry friendships.

But to return to her life at Griff Farm. We, looking back on those years, and seeing how much of needful preparation they held for a brilliant career, may think lightly of the loneliness and heart-hunger of that time. To the poor child, however, living her passionate but repressed life in that remote farm-house, and seeing nothing beyond, they were sad years. Many an imaginative girl, thus isolated, would have spent the time in idle dreaming. But Marian Evans was too ambitious, too eager for knowledge to be so tempted. Besides her duties as housekeeper, which she per-