

spite of the medical verdict, that the end could not be far off. Nine days before the end we watched without hope. These days were relieved by the sweet words that fell from her lips, sometimes with almost her old playfulness and sense of humor, but more often with a solemnity and tender affection which showed us that in almost every word she was taking leave of us. Those were days of desolation when every act performed, every little service rendered, seemed as if done for one who had already passed beyond the need of our loving care; when each familiar object seemed to look at us with a new, strange expression, as if reiterating to us our loss; when God seemed far away, and prayer a difficult, strange thing, and fierce temptations to doubt assailed us.

On the night of the 22nd, when hearing and speech had almost failed, the watchers at her bedside thought they caught from her lips the words, "O speak—comfort."

Strength was given one of her daughters to repeat from the 14th of St. John, the words:—

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.

"In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself: that where I am there ye may be also."

There she paused, thinking her mother did not hear. But a few moments after the stillness was broken, and