

and pray, she unexpectedly found it occupied by her uncle Murray, when the following conversation took place :

“ ‘Uncle Murray! Oh, I beg your pardon,’ said Anna, afraid that he would be displeased. ‘Indeed, I did not know you were in this room, or I should not have disturbed you.’

“ ‘Come in, my love, said Uncle Murray, kindly, ‘and tell me what you wanted in this room at so early an hour ;’ and he led Anna to the place where he had been sitting, and then took her on his knee, and she saw that he had been reading from a Bible that lay open on the table before him.

“ ‘Well, my dear Anna, what did you want?’

“ ‘I wanted to read, uncle, and if you will allow me to sit down just in the corner where I usually sit, I shall not disturb you in the very least.’

“ ‘Well, my love, do so,’ said her uncle, and then he watched her while she went to her drawer, and took out her Bible, and her little book, and then set herself in a corner beyond the chest of drawers, and turning away her face from him, found her place, and began to read. He did not interrupt her for a time ; then softly approaching to where she was, he looked over her shoulder, and saw that she read the Bible.

“ ‘Dear child,’ said he, ‘do you understand what you read?’

“ ‘Not very well, uncle. I cannot understand much of this chapter.’

“ ‘Should you like me to explain it to you?’

“ ‘Oh yes, yes, uncle, if it would not interrupt you.’

“ Her uncle again took her on his knee, and read the chapter, and explained it just in the plain kind way her own Mamma used to do, and then said, ‘And what does my little Anna do next?’

“ ‘I try to pray, uncle, but——’

“ ‘But what, my love?’

“ Anna’s eyes filled with tears.

‘You would not love me any more, if I told you what I am thinking about praying, uncle.’

“ ‘Yes Anna, I will love you whatever you tell me.’

“ ‘No, uncle, you will not be able, for I am so often wicked now, that I do not love to pray as I used to do, because Mamma taught me, that when we come to pray, we ought first to remember, and confess our sins to God, and then ask him to wash away our sins for Christ’s sake : but I have always so many sins to think of now, that I do not like to begin to pray ; and I read, and read, or get verses to repeat, till it is time to go to Miss Palmer, and then I just say a few words of prayer.’

“ ‘That is not right, my Anna,’ said her uncle, ‘but I cannot love you the less for this, because it makes me hope that God is teaching you what he teaches all his own children, that you have a very sinful heart ; and will feel your need of the Physician of Souls : and when you know him, my dear Anna, I shall love you far more than I do, just because you are my niece ; for he is the Physician of my soul also ; and those who love him love each other for his sake. Do you know who this Physician is, my dear Anna?’

“ ‘Yes. It is Jesus Christ. Mamma taught me that.’

“ ‘And do you know the office of a physician?’

“ ‘Yes. It is to heal the sick. My cousin Marianne, had many physicians to attend her, but they could not heal her.’

“ ‘No, because they had no power except what God gave them ; and it was His will that Marianne should not recover. But you know Jesus Christ has all power in heaven and on earth ; and he has promised eternal life to all who come to him. But you know you must come to him. If you wish your physician to heal you, it is necessary for you to bring your complaints to him, that he may use means to remove them. You must