

evermore with His presence, and to control everything that would be done within its walls. She promised that the key of that door would never be turned against any of His orphan children whom He might see fit to send; and that she would trust Him, if He sent the children, to send also the supplies of food, and clothing, and other things to meet their needs. Day after day, even week after week, she spent almost entirely alone in the house, in a kind of spiritual "retreat"; holding communion with God in the study of His word, in praise and prayer—asking God to increase her faith, and to fit her in every way for the work, if He desired her to carry it on. During these weeks she had, when she went outside, some trying experiences. Some of her friends strongly disapproved of what she was doing. She was told that she was crazy. One told her that she was wanting to have an easy life for herself. Others turned away from her entirely and refused to speak. Many tears were shed over their alienation, but she carried her sorrow to the Lord, told Him all about it, and was strengthened and consoled.

Six weeks passed; her means were almost exhausted, and no children appeared. Her pastor, calling one day, told her that George Muller had experienced a similar trial of faith when the great orphanage work began at Bristol. On the pastor's advice a number of friends, who sympathized in the matter, gathered together in the house for prayer. It was solemnly dedicated to God as "The Bethany Orphanage" for destitute, fatherless children, and God was asked to send the children if He desired the work to be carried on.