



Betty,

LIE STILL AND COUGH

and other short stories of faith

CHARACTER BUILDING STORIES

"BETTY, LIE STILL AND COUGH"

Old Betty was very poor, and sold matches for a living. She was converted late in life, and felt that she had a great debt of **gratitude** to pay to her precious Saviour, and but a little time to pay it in. She was, therefore, very active in doing good, visiting the sick, collecting money for the poor and for the heathen, giving something to those who were poorer than herself, and speaking to every one, where she had an opportunity, a word for Jesus. If she had but one talent, she would not bury that in the earth, but use it in his service. "The love of Christ **constrained** her." She believed, and therefore spoke.



One day, while engaged in her active duties, she took cold, and was laid up with **rheumatism** and a severe cough. For many months she was confined to her bed, and

unable to do anything for herself or others. An aged minister visited her while in this condition, and asked her if it was not very hard to be laid aside from active duty, and how she was enabled to bear her long confinement so patiently. "Not at all hard, sir, not at all," said old Betty. "When I was well, I used to hear the Lord say to me, day by day, ' Betty, go here; Betty, go there ; Betty, do this ; Betty, do that ; ' and now I hear him say every day, ' Betty, lie still and cough.' "

She little thought at the time of the greatness of the work, she was doing. No one ever does who is doing a great work.



She simply did her duty, and suffered meekly, and humbly, and cheerfully, for her precious Saviour, all that he saw fit to lay upon her. She lost her will in the Divine will ; and this is the secret of happiness and usefulness. " Not my will, but thine, O God, be done," was the **utterance** of the happiest and most

useful being who ever trod the earth in human form, and it came from the deepest darkness of sorrow, and was the incense of a crushed and bleeding, heart. The more we resemble Him, the happier we shall be, and the more good we shall do. When our wills perfectly harmonize with the Divine will—when we can feel as well as say, " Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,"— then nothing can disturb us ; everything will please us, because it is the ordering of our heavenly Father.

Word Glossary

Gratitude-- thankfulness

Constrained-- compelled, to urge strongly, controlled

Rheumatism—pains in muscles and joints

Utterance-- speaking

"HE SAYS."

I was visiting lately a little girl, a dear lamb of the Shepherd's flock, and one whom He seems to be carrying in his **bosom**.

Wondering at the **unvarying** peace which her countenance and words always expressed, I ventured to ask her, when



speaking about the Saviour's legacy to his disciples, if the sweet peace which Jesus had given her was never **ruffled** or disturbed. "O yes," she

said; "I lose it when I sin. It gives me such a sore pain here," she continued, laying her hand on her breast, whilst her eyes slowly filled with tears, "when I fret or murmur, and forget all that the Lord bore for me."

"And what do you do then, to regain your peace?" said I. "I confess my sin, and ask God to pardon me," she replied.

"And do you know when He has forgiven you ?" I continued ; supposing she would tell of the pain at her heart removed, and a renewed assurance of pardon shed abroad there.

Her answer rebuked me,—O that I knew more of the child-like simplicity of the faith which it manifested—a faith which looked wholly to God's word, and not at all to inward frames and feelings. Turning her eyes upon me, and speaking slowly, she replied,—" He says, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all iniquity. He says, I will cast all your sins behind my back ; your sins and your iniquities will I remember no more."

He says! That is quite enough for faith. "Hath He said it, and will He not do it ! —He, whose very name is Truth.

Truly out of the mouth of babes and sucklings God perfects praise, and shows us how it is that if we receive not the kingdom of God as a little child we shall in no wise enter therein.

Word Glossary

Bosom-- a human's chest

Ruffled—losing calmness

Unvarying-- unchanging

"IF FATHER HOLDS THE ROPE."

In Russ-shire, there is an **immense** mountain-**gorge**. The rocks have been rent in **twain**, and set apart twenty feet [*6 meters*], 'forming two walls two hundred feet [*61 meters*] in height. On either side of these natural walls, in **crevices** where earth has collected, grow wild flowers of rare quality and beauty.

A company of tourists visiting that part of the country, were desirous to possess themselves of **specimens** of these beautiful mountain flowers ; but how to obtain them they knew not. At length they thought they might be gathered by suspending a person over the cliff by a rope.



They offered a highland boy, who was near by, a handsome sum of money to undertake the difficult and dangerous task. The boy looked into the awful **abyss** that yawned below, and shrank from the undertaking; but the money was tempting.

Could he confide in the strangers? Could he venture his life in their hands? He felt that he could not; but he thought of his father, and looking once more at the cliff, and then at the proffered reward, his eye brightened, and he exclaimed, "I'll go if my father holds the rope!"

Beautiful illustration of the nature of faith! If the highland boy could only place the strong hand and loving heart of his father to the other end of the rope, he would descend the **precipice** with a fearless mind. Love and power would keep him from falling, and bring him up again with his prize of flowers, a trophy of his father's affection and of his own faith.

Word Glossary

Abyss-- a deep gulf

Crevices—cracks or openings

Gorge-- a ravine, a small narrow steep-sided valley

Precipice-- a cliff

Specimens-- samples,

Twain-two

Republishing of Old Stories

www.lightindarkness.site



© *Light in Darkness*

May be copied freely for noncommercial and educational purposes.