Speaking of her plans for conducting the estate after her husband's death, she says:—

"My purposes respecting these people, I hold to be so sacred, that I desire not, and even fear to counsel with my dearest and wisest friends, because they would all advise me to relieve myself from this bondage in which I outwardly live, and which, in their kindness for me, they have thought would ere now have ended my days. But by faith thou hast borne me through scenes of trial both of body and mind, the prospect of which I might well have shrunk from. Thus preserved I come to *THEE*, and look up through the blood of the Covenant for direction in all the affairs of this estate. And with regard to the frequent failures of some of these people in duty, let me not be put off by these things, from my settled purpose of doing them good. How to get them to perform their needful part, although they know it is for their own sakes that I wish it. Oh, enlighten their ignorance, subdue their opposing wills, and soften their hard hearts. Give wisdom to see the right course to pursue, with all such as are thus tempted."

"My God, I bless thy holy name for enabling me to go through many trying circumstances in my pilgrimage, in firmer faith than I have before been supported by. When trials arise, instead of looking at them and my own inability to do my duty under them, I am sweetly influenced to look to the hills from whence my help cometh. I could, indeed, always repeat those portions of the Psalms which apply in such cases, and sometimes realize them, but now I find them more substantially placed under me to keep my faith, which is God's gift, in strong exercise. Blessed be my God, as I approach nearer the end of my time, I see eternity to be very glorious. Oh, to be employed in exploring the wonders of universal creation, and the greater wonders of redemption. * * * *

"I still find my spirit within me, prone to *plan* more than to *pray*, although I know how unprofitable and how unsafe it is; and although I find such sweet confidence in praying and trusting to thee to plan for me, and to keep me waiting on thee continually, watching the leadings of thy providence."

So was the finger of God manifested in preparing her for a season of trial which was at hand, perhaps the greatest which she ever experienced.

It became necessary to pay a large debt which rested upon the estate, a considerable portion of which had been contracted in the maintenance of slaves. In such cases, the laws of the commonwealth enforce the sale of personal property, and by the same laws, slaves are of that denomination.

She looked every way for an alternative; but there was none. It was certain that the officers of the law would pursue the prescribed course, and the sale of some of them became inevitable. Her hands of love were effectually tied, but not her heart. The principal wish of the negroes in cases of sales at that time, was to avoid being sent to the South, and this she feared might be the lot of some of them.

The day of sale arrived. A number of slave traders were present to bid. In the noise and crowds of men at such places, the preferences or benevolent views of a female are not likely to be much regarded. From a scene which she could neither prevent or control, she retired to her private chamber, where she bore in agony to the throne of grace, the unheeded petitions of those whom she loved, and whom she expected to meet at the bar of God. And if it be lawful to apply words written of Christ, to one to whom it was given to suffer for his sake—with strong crying and tears to him who was able to save, she was heard in that she feared.

Of more than a hundred sold, not one fell into the hands of the slave dealers, or was far removed from his former home. The world will call

this accident or chance—she ever held it as a special providence, and often spoke of it until the day of her death, as among her greatest mercies.

A large number still remained, either her own or belonging to those under her influence. To them she gave herself in a manner which she was never able to do to the whole number. They were all assembled every morning a little after the dawn of day, for the reading of the Bible and prayer. For this service she employed the ministers who frequently visited at her house, or other pious gentlemen; but in the absence of such, did not hesitate to expound the scriptures and offer prayer. The exercises conducted by herself were probably as well calculated to benefit the slaves as any which they ever enjoyed. Her manner was to read over a number of times, before prayer, a solemn and instructive passage of scripture, and add some brief remarks in the way of illustration and application. Her remarks upon scripture were very original and striking.

She now began to make every arrangement to hasten the period of their emancipation. But many difficulties remained, owing to the still embarrassed condition of the estate and the perverse temper of some of the slaves, who were unwilling to exert themselves even for their own good. This will explain the following extracts from her writtings, in which her temper and spirit are strikingly displayed.

"When will it be safe to trust me with the power of using the mammon of unrighteousness in doing services of love to the bodies and souls of thy creatures? When shall I be so far delivered from self-righteousness as to be a fit instrument to perform those services which for so many years it has been my grief that I had no power to perform.

"Ah thou hast seen that I should have gone to work in my own strength, and long ere this have given over through faintness and the discouragements which arise from the perverseness and ungrateful behaviour of those whom I desired to serve.

"But thou didst foreknow these things and thy preventing grace has controlled me, and in spite of my restlessness to be doing, has held me in, till, being much curbed and broken, thou art at length in some small degree, (doubtless as far as I can be trusted with safety to myself,) showing me some labours of love to engage in. It is a subject for wonder and astonishment that one so self-willed, so unwatchful and weak in faith, should be employed by thee at all."

"Look upon those of my fellow-creatures in servitude in my family, who this day have given way to the temptation of their situation in murmuring and rebellious language toward me. Thou canst enlighten them and show them the error of their way. Thou canst convince them of sin, and subdue their spirits to bear with patience the trial of being under the guidance of one, who only from necessity as they well know, is enduring, and that for their sakes, the task of urging them to such duties, as will lead to their temporal and eternal freedom.

"Often hast thou given me to see, and gratefully to acknowledge a change of feeling and demeanour in those for whom I have especially applied to thee that their minds might be enlightened and their hearts softened. Let me never have to apply to human authority to restrain them, but pray, and hope, and watch, and wait for answers to prayer; and should I be permitted to see the happy change, deliver me from the temptation which may assail me that my wisdom or goodness has effected this. In every mercy make me feel that I am nothing, and that Christ is all."

"If it be not thy blessed will to grant me the privilege of seeing this work accomplished in my hands, make me willing even for this, and never let me faint nor tire in labouring for it, even though all things should seem

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