

and I hope you will get on well enough one of these days."

"But I did try to do right," I stammered forth; although my heart told me, if I had tried aright, I should have succeeded.

"Rome wasn't built in a day, Fanny; neither can you expect to get over your faults and build up your character in a day. You must be willing to prune off your bad habits one by one, as the gardener prunes off the worthless limbs of a tree,—and in due time, by continued labour, he sees the tree healthy and thriving; so if you try, you'll find your character improving every day. It will need great care, and at first will cause you much trouble, for it is very hard to break away from old habits; but make up your mind, Fanny, that you will leave the things that are behind, and press forward, and with the assistance of God you will succeed. You are young now, and your case is by no means a hopeless one."

These words of encouragement pierced the clouds which enveloped my mind, as the bright rays of the sun pierce through the thick and foggy mists. Even *I* might hope for happier days—I who had all my life failed in everything I had undertaken. Aunt Patience said "Rome was not built in a day;" it took a long time,