

Light will always overcome darkness.

But, in the lapse of the toilsome, thoughtful, and self devoted year that made up Hester's life, the scarlet letter ceased to be a stigma which attracted the world's scorn and bitterness, and became a type of something to be sorrowed over, and looked upon with awe, yet with reverence too. And, as Hester Prynne had no selfish ends, nor lived in any measure for her own profit and enjoyment, people brought all their sorrows and perplexities, and besought her counsel, as one who had herself gone through a mighty and besought her counsel, as one who had herself gone through a mighty trouble. Women, more especially,--- in the continually recurring trials of wounded, wasted, wronged, misplaced, or or erring and sinful passion,---or with the dreary burden of a heart unyielded, because unvalued and unsought,-- came to Hester's cottage, demanding why they were so wretched, and what the remedy! Hester comforted and counselled them, as best she might. She assured them, too, of her firm belief that, at some brighter period, when the world should have grown ripe for it, in Heaven's own time, a new truth would be revealed, in order to establish the whole relation between man and woman on a surer ground of mutual happiness.