

She was convicted to six years to Siberia in prison camp but the war came on and they forgot about the termination of all sentences. And she was there for eleven years! She said that during that time in that prison when they had comparatively little to eat and a miserable existence, they would be sent out every day to work. Occasionally they would do some work that was somewhat vigorous physically and very tiring to her, but she said the hardest thing of all was when they had to go out and pick a certain kind of plant and gather them, bring them in. If they did not bring in a certain amount they were given nothing to eat. She said it was work where you were not moving much. She was cold and miserable and uncomfortable. One day she was out doing that work and another woman in the camp who had been a teacher in a Russian school happened to be near her, and she turned to this woman and said, Do you see that plant there? That little plant growing up there? Isn't that pretty? The woman said, Yes, have you read so- and-so's poem referring to a Russian poem. She said, No, I never heard it. She said, It goes like this. And she said that as that woman repeated to her from memory that Russian poem she said the cold disappeared, the bleak misery and the miserable life she was living just disappeared! She said that she was carried away with the beauty of that poem for a few minutes while she was reading.

And I thought, what a picture of the fact that with all the destruction and misery that God has made, there still is that in every one of us which can find joy and happiness in many of the wonderful things that God has put in the world and has given human beings the power to produce. The Christian has a right to enjoy the good things of the world.