

"Dear Robert, it is only the shell we have buried in the little green churchyard, and his new life is certain joy and endless happiness; he has gone, in the words of our catechism, 'to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.' I think it is you that are to be pitied, Robin, because the new life is earthly and the new mistress full of faults, as you will soon find out; you are like the young bears, you have all your troubles before you."

"I have faults, too," said Robert, "but tell me of them by myself if ever I vex you. I don't mean to vex you, I mean to make you happy if I can, and I am happy in being here by your side to-night, but I realize that one day we must part, and God grant that I may go first, and never live after you; and God grant we may never be separate again till cruel death divides us."

"Time is as great a divider as death," said Mary, "only he does it more gently, but separate or together, we will always be fast friends."

"I am more than your friend," he replied, "you will *always* be dearer to me than any other woman in the world."

THE END.

