

THE CHILD'S QUESTION.

The fire burn'd low within the grate,
Where crouched a widow'd form,
Regardless of her sad estate,
Or winter's piercing storm.

A painful vigil had she kept
Through days and nights now flown:
It was a dreamless sleep he slept,
And she was left alone.

Whilst he had liv'd her lot to cheer,
The worn heart could rejoice;—
Now, only that still form was near,
And death had hush'd his voice.

"Alone!" she said, "thro' all the cloud
That hangs o'er future years;"
And lower the poor head was bow'd,
And faster fell the tears.

A little girl some six years old
Sat at a table by;
Her listless arms her toys enfold,
With a mute sympathy.

She knew no balm to heal such woe,
No medicine for relief:
Yet something tempted her to go
And soothe that heavy grief.

Placing within her mother's hands
Her tiny curly head,
And folding close those loving bands,
She ask'd "Is Jesus dead?"

* * * * *
Rich mother ev'n in poverty!
In trouble full of bliss!
Who amongst earth's philosophers
Could preach such faith as this?

Was it of Lazarus' grave she thought?
Or Jairus' little one?
Or had she that sweet tale been taught,
Of the poor widow's son?

I know not: this alone I know,
True were the words she said,
Why should we fear to part below
Since Jesus is not dead!

Tears we may shed,—for he could weep,
And love is all divine;
But, child, in sorrow may we keep
A faith as bright as thine!

KATE FENTON.

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SMALL THINGS.

"A sense of an earnest will
To help the lowly living,
And a terrible heart-thrill,
If you have no power of giving
An arm of aid to the weak,
A friendly hand to the friendless;
Kind words, so short to speak,
But whose echo is endless:
The world is wide—these things are small,
They may be nothing—but they may be all."

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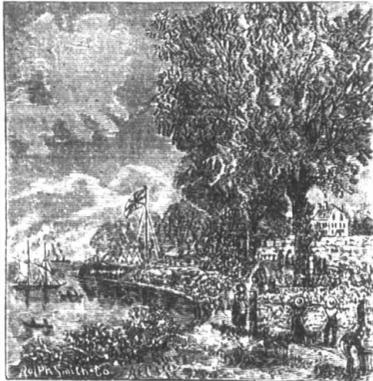
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