

to do so? But I have never seen her since a few days before that terrible night, and I have not heard a single word from her since. Mr. Derwent told me the circumstances of her mysterious disappearance, and when I asked him if he could account for it, he said he understood her motives perfectly, but that he did not feel at liberty to explain them. But, Raymond," continued Kathleen, very softly, "may I say to you that I feel sure it has been caused by some misunderstanding of your feelings? I always had an instinctive consciousness that Estelle loved you, and only you, from first to last, although her perfect delicacy and high-spirited unselfishness enabled her to act at all times with no thought but for your happiness. It was for your sake she was kind to me, silly frivolous child as I was, not fit to be a companion to you; but I knew, I felt, that all her own interests, so far as this world are concerned, were centred in you alone; and, will you believe me, that indeed, and indeed, I thought I might be doing you a great service, rather than an injury, in setting you free to reap the happiness of which her love could not fail to give the promise?"

"And you were right, Kathleen," said Raymond, frankly, "although I could not see it at that time. I know now but too well that the life-long companionship of Estelle Lingard would make my existence more blest than words can say; and knowing this, think what it must be to feel I have lost her!"

"But not, oh not for ever!" exclaimed Kathleen. "It cannot be. Whatever may be the false impression which has made her fly from you, she will be drawn back to you the moment she discovers her mistake."

"Perhaps; only she may never discover it, for I have not the smallest clue which could tell me where to seek her on the face of the earth."

"Oh, she must be found!" exclaimed Kathleen, with the sanguine enthusiasm which she derived from her Irish mother. "I feel as if I could walk the wide world over in search of her."

"Dear Kathleen," said Raymond, smiling, "if your power were as great as your will, I do not doubt Estelle and I would be re-united; in the meantime, I can but hold myself in readiness to fly to her the moment I can hear the faintest tidings of her. Perhaps Hugh will be able to give us some information, when he is well enough to be questioned; he was the last person who saw her."

Raymond was too generous to tell Kathleen what a cruel part Hugh had really played in the drama of his life, and he somewhat hastily changed the subject.

"Kathleen," he said, "as you know me to be your friend in all sincerity, you will let me ask you a question, which would seem intrusive from an ordinary acquaintance. Tell me, are you happy?"

"Yes," she answered, softly, putting her hand into his as she spoke; "I am most truly happy now, much more so than I was when first I married; I loved Tracy then as deeply as I do now, but he was very different. I may say it to you, for I can only speak of him now to praise him! he is wonderfully changed since the night of the fire. The shock of finding himself in that terrible hour almost already in the grasp of death has had a most powerful effect upon him; he was too much stunned at first to be able to realize that he had been actually on the very brink of that eternity where he would have had to appear before the Judge of all, but when he was sufficiently recovered to be able to reflect on the events of that night in quiet and solitude, it is not too much to say that it altered his whole character and feelings. He gave me his fullest confidence on the subject, I am thankful to say, and he told me that he used formerly to think as little about death as if it were an impossibility instead of a certainty, and he was entirely indifferent, if not absolutely antagonistic, to religion; but he now felt the imperative necessity of possessing some anchor for the soul in the awful moment when it is cast adrift from the mortal world, and he turned gladly to the Light he never would see before. He opened all his heart to me, and asked me to help him, that we might lead together a useful Christian life, and meet death without fear. You may fancy how thankful I was to join with him heart and soul in all such plans, and I think it was only then he began really from his heart to return my affection, and to prefer my society to that of his former companions; but he does love me now, Raymond," continued Kathleen,

with a pretty blush; "and he has grown so good and thoughtful, that we are very happy. I think we are following the plain course of our duty in the scheme we have formed for the future. We are going to live entirely at the old family house of the Harcourts, which we have recently bought, as you know, with all the surrounding property, and we are going to try and improve the condition of the tenants, and the poor who belong to it. We shall be helped in all that by the rector of the parish, who is an excellent man. Then we are going to take charge of Tracy's brother, who has become quite childish, and may now live for years, according to the opinions of the doctors who attend him; he will be my care chiefly, while my husband attends to all matters out of doors; so you see we shall both have plenty to do," she added, smiling.

"I am so delighted to hear all this, dear Kathleen," said Raymond, heartily; "whatever the future may have in store for me of personal trial, it will always be a true comfort to me to know that you are leading a happy and useful life."

"I shall owe it in a double sense to you," she answered; for Tracy told me that it was your noble conduct, showing him what a man could become who trusted in Christ, that first struck him with an overwhelming conviction that the Christian faith was a great reality. You saved him that night, Raymond, for time and for eternity alike."

At that moment the shadow of a passing figure darkened the little window, and Kathleen started up.

"There is my husband," she said, and went to the door to meet him. He came in holding her by the hand, and as Raymond looked up and met the eyes of Tracy Harcourt, he saw that there was indeed a great change in his expression. All his superciliousness and cynical contempt had given place to a look of quiet thoughtfulness, and his glance towards Raymond was, as Kathleen's had been, one of evident entreaty. He came forward with some embarrassment, but with straightforward manliness, and held out his hand to Raymond.

"You would only treat me as I deserve," he said, "if you refused to take my hand; but I come to ask you, in so many words, to forgive my dishonorable conduct towards you. I cannot justify it; I can only beg you to pardon it."

Instantly Raymond's hand was in his. "Not another word on that score, Harcourt. We are friends henceforward, if you will let it be so."

"Friends!" exclaimed Harcourt, as he held him in a firm grasp; "you are somewhat more than a friend to me, I think. Raymond, I know you would rather dispense with thanks, and no words that I could use would be adequate to describe the gratitude I feel towards you; only I do pray you to understand that I appreciate to the uttermost all you have done and suffered for me; for I know if you have not absolutely lost your life, you have endured pain and serious injury for my worthless sake, and I believe that I shall have reason to bless you for it all, through the long ages of eternity."

"I have told Kathleen," said Raymond, in a low tone, "that the benefit to me has been as great as any you can have received, so that we need neither of us recur to the subject again, but let it go back into the past for ever."

(To be Continued.)

DAYBREAK.

(Written for the Dominion Churchman.)

I rose from my pillow all jaded and worn,
With mind tossed with pain and unrest,
My spirit was sad and my mood was forlorn,
Despondency, too, was my guest.

From my window I looked in the faint weak light
To the Eastward, a valley extended,
The day strove to break, but the darkness of night
O'er that broad and deep chasm depended.

My glance sought the shade, but it seemed to debar
The vision with gloom overpowering,
But I lifted my gaze to the distance afar,
And the sky on the waters thick lowering.

Then God sent his light to illumine my soul,
To enliven my desolate musing,

With the winds of the night the clouds swiftly roll
In remoteness their density losing.

Then I said to my heart in this spectacle grand
Our Father a lesson has given,
To guide my weak steps to the beautiful land
Whence all darkness and gloom will be driven.

WHY WE SHOULD ATTEND CHURCH ON SUNDAY.

FROM THE ASHBURNHAM "PARISH VISITOR."

1. Because our duty is to keep holy the Lord's Day, and this we cannot do if we neglect the privileges of God's house.

2. Because we must remember the Saviour's special promise that "where two or three are together," He is in the midst, St. Matt. xviii. 20. If we truly love Him we shall endeavour to be often where He is.

3. Because as life speeds on, we must be still more careful in "not forgetting the assembling of ourselves together, and so much the more as we see the day approaching, Hebrews x. 25. Excuses won't avail at judgment.

4. Because our duty is to set a good example to our friends and families and neighbours. Our example must influence others. If we stay away why should not they? Bad weather seldom affects our worldly engagements.

5. Because God may have intended a special message for us in the sermon just when we absent ourselves, besides we should sustain and encourage by our presence at all times, him who is set over us in the Lord.

6. Because besides this we ought to embrace any and every opportunity for public worship with God's people, remembering the command, "Continue constant in prayer." Rom. xii. 12. God's vows are upon each of us.

7. Because the religion of Christ calls for continual self-denial and the easiest task is never to be preferred. See St. Mark, viii. 34.

8. Because, as each Sunday comes, we should remember it may be our last on earth, and therefore we should make good use of our opportunities. "In the midst of life we are in death." (Burial Service).

9. Because the salvation of the soul and our growth in grace are of unspeakable importance, and everything that tends to aid in this work should be used wisely, and as God intended. St. Matthew vi, 23.

10. Because each week brings us fresh cares and fresh trials, and the Lord's Day, and its gracious privileges provide us with fresh grace and strength for the contest. God always blesses those who are found in the path of duty. See Ps. lxxxiv.

11. Because an avoidable absence from church is an infallible evidence of spiritual decay. Back-sliding disciples first follow Christ at a distance, and then, like St. Peter, deny Him altogether.

W. C. BRADSHAW.

Children's Department.

MY LITTLE LOVE.

I have a love at Aston Hall,
A little, prattling darling,
She's very, very, very small,
And chatters like a starling.
Her hair is light, her eye blue-bright,
Her cheek is like a posy,
And if you wish her name outright,
'Tis little baby Rosy.

She's such a sweet, wee, winsome thing,
That, spite of my endeavor
To give the witch the cruel fling,
I fear that I must have her;
She comes and peers into my eyes,
And climbs up o'er my shoulder,
Or snares me by some fond surprise,
Till I am forced to hold her.

And then she pulls me by the beard
Or clutches at my glasses,
Till I begin to be afraid
She'll beat my Devon lasses.
God keep her little, loving heart;
I wish her well and cosy,