

Was he dead? No! It fled away through the blue sky on a beautiful sunny day, and some people heard it singing, as it used to do, near a clear stream of water among trees and flowers. When your little brother or sister died, it was only the cage that was broken and buried, but the spirit that used to speak to you, and love you, and be happy with you, was never touched, or broken, or buried; never!—but it went to Jesus Christ, and it is living, and thinking, and singing, and good and happy; and getting far wiser, and learning far more there than you can do here, because it lives in a better place where there is no sin and no sickness, and where everything is beautiful and good, and every one is kind and happy.

Now, may be, you will live for a long, long time in this world and not leave it till you are old with grey hairs. This, however, is just as God pleases; and God always pleases to do what is best for you, because His name is Love, and so you should be always pleased with whatever He does. But, remember, Death, when it comes, only touches the cage, not the bird. It is the body, not yourself, that dies. You yourself will never for one moment be away from Jesus, but always be as close to Him as those babes were whom He clasped to His heart and blessed when He was on earth.

Now, my dear children, is it not good and kind in God to make us in order to live with Himself forever? He made all the trees and plants on the face of the earth, but He did not breathe into them His own life; they did not, therefore, become living souls, and so they shall all perish. God made all the fish of the sea, all the birds of the air, and all the beasts of the earth, but neither did He make them living souls, or say to them, "Live for ever," and therefore, they also perish. God made all the great world, the mountains, rivers, and seas; and He made the sun, the moon, the thousands of stars that shine in the sky, but He never said to them, "Live for ever," and so, too, they must perish. The earth is very old; the mountains are just the same as they were in the days of Adam; you can walk in the Holy Land just in the same places where Abraham, and Moses, and David, and Jesus walked; and, long after our bodies die, the hills we see will remain the same, and the rivers will roll the same, and the sea will flow and ebb the same; yet these old, old hills, and rivers, and seas, will one day die and pass away! But you, my dear children, will live long, long after them, for, as I have told you, you will live for ever! Has not God, then, loved you far more than the birds, or fish, or beasts, or mountains, or the whole world? Has He not loved you when He