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The Home of

When Half of Life is Gone.

BY MRS. ELIZABETH D. FIELDER

It comes to you suddenly one day, in the midst of your planning, the thought that half of your lifetime is gone. It startles you. What a little while it seems since you. What a little while it seems since that other time when you were planning and dreaming of the future! How long a lifetime seemed then! How many things you meant to do, how much you would acyou meant to do, now much you would ac-complish for yourself and others, in the golden years lying between now and the half-way place! Where have the years gone to, and where are the dreams that then you dreamed? Alas, how few of them ever came true!

Then come thoughts of neglected opportunities. If you had only been a little wiser here, a little far-seeing there, some of the ships might have come home treasurepaden, that long ago went down on the rocks. If you had only realized in those years how rapidly they were going, how much an hour, a moment counts up in the long run of a lifetime, you would have seen to it that nome were wasted, but each one would have yielded to you some useful one would have yielded to you some useful lesson, some elevating thought, and so brought you nearer day by day to the ideal of manhood which was before you. Then the needy you might have helped, the heavy-hearted you might have cheered; they pass in long procession before you, and you seem to hear the sorrowful words, "Insamuch as ye did it not unto the least of these we did it not unto the least of these we did it not unto the least of these, ye did it not unto me."

With the thought of vanished opportu-

nities come also the thought of vanished friends. Ah! how many started with you then who have drifted out of sight on the way, the busy, noisy world coming between; and how many more have slipped out of the pushing, struggling, eager throng, closed their eyes to its temptations, and their ears to its allurements, and with folded hands and peaceful brows await for us to join them. If you could only go back and walk the way with them again, you would love them better, you would hold them closer; but alas for the remorselessness of time! How much he takes, how little he ever gives back! But that is not all; there are brighter places.

There has been some work, bravely and faithfully done, not always as wisely, as perseveringly as might be, but something which has helped another in need; some-thing which has farthered you one step in the way you intended to go. Not all the time has been wasted, and here and there you feel that you have approached a little toward your ideal, even if it is still very far off. Then there are sweet and blessed recollections of times when the heart swung open freely to the ones you loved, when they entered in and read for themselves all the trust and deep devotion of your soul; and though you were some-times cold and indifferent, sometimes careless and unresponsive, they had been almitted to this holy of holies, and knew what was behind the veil. There are also many memories of help which has come along the dark places, of the everlasting Arms which have borne you up in your weakness, and the great Rock which has sheltered you in the midst of storms.

No; after all, it is not regret and remorse alone which come to you at this sudden halt in the halfway place. There is a subdued and tender gladness "that is akin to pain" in this review of the way you

have just passed over.

Then you turn your back upon it and face about to the future.

A little slower, a little more deliberately you take up those plans again. The years which are left you to work are not so many by half as you had then, but you are not discoursged. You know now what an hour is worth. You will waste no time in fruitless experimenting, but be able "to act to-morrow what you learn to-day." You have worked enough

The Master work, and catch Hints of the proper craft, Tricks of the tools' true play."

With a strong arm, a clear eye, and a steadfast heart, much is possible in the

years that yet remain. And the friends who still walk with you—you will go out from this place and take their hands in a tenderer, stronger clasp; you will look in-to their faces with a warmer interest, a deeper affection written upon your own; you will open the doors of your heart to them oftener, and the holy communion will be sweeter and more soul-satisfying than anything you have ever known!

The weak and halting, the hungry and

faint, who pass your way will find a readier hand to help, since you have remembered how short the time in which to win the sweet commendation, "Well done, good and faithful servant." And so you may yet be able to say with the poet :

"Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life for which the first was made:

made:
Our times are in his hand
Who saith: 'A whole I planned;
Youth shows but half, trust God, see all,
nor be afraid.'"

-The Christian Advocate. * * *

John's Bad Company.

"Do you know the kind of company that John is associating with?" said puri-tanical Aunt Jane to her married sister. "He spent last evening with some of the most vulgar and profane fellows that I ever heard of."

"Why, what do you mean? The boy was in his room reading a book that he borrowed from one of his schoolmates. He is a great reader, and I am glad of it."

"Perhaps you would not be so glad if you knew what he is reading. I picked up the story that he was so interested in when I was doing his room this morning, and it made me sick. The characters in it were from the slums, and their talk was slangy and vile. It was one of the popular realistic novels. Its author thinks it his mission to describe human nature as it is, no matter how degraded, and to make it interesting. For my part, I cannot see much difference between bringing a bookful of thieves and gamblers, of rogues and harlots, into a boy's room, and letting the boy go into their dens. If he enjoys their society at home, he may be tempted to seek them in their homes. If our boys are great readers, we ought to know what they are reading."

And Johnnie's mother said that Aunt Jane was right, and she was.—Senex Smith, in Herald and Presbyter.

An "Out-of-Date" Couple.

An "Out-of-Date" Couple.

We are "so out of date," they say,
Ned and I;
We love in an old fashioned way,
Long since gone by.
He says I am his helpmate true
In everything;
And I—well, I will own to you
He is my king.

The is my ang.

We met in no romantic way

'Twixt "glow and gloom;"

He wooed me on a winter day,

And in—a room;

Yet,through life's hours of stress and storm,

When griefs befell,

Love kept our small home corner warm,

And all was well.

Ned thinks no woman like his wife—
But let that pass;
Perhaps we view the dual life
Through roseate glass;
Even if the prospects be not bright,
We hold it true
That heaviest burdens may grow light
When shared by two.

Upon the gilded scroll of fame,
Embissoned fair,
I cannot hope to read the name
I proudly bear;
But, happy in their even flow,
The years glide by;
We are behind the times, we know
Ned and I.—Chamber's -Chamber's Journal.

Temperance advocates are rejoicing that the battle of Atbara was won on tea and coffee made with Nile water. Sir. Herbert Kitchener refused an offer of whisky for

* * *

It is said that I,500 children under 14 years of age were arrested in London for drunkenness in one year.

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August 31

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Lesson XI. S Comr The Quarterly

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