

offended Him you must repent and amend, whatever He may think well to do with His own. Your lads are in His hand; and after all He loves both you and them better than

down. When he had done they were both silent for full five minutes.

'I'm an old man, he said at last. 'It will be hard for me to change after more



you love each other. And if He has taken them to Himself, your only chance of seeing them again lies in being reconciled to Him.

He spoke very slowly and earnestly, and the old man listened, still with head bent

than sixty years. But I *will* change. I will strive to do better—so help me God.'

There was a silence again. It may be that they were both praying that the resolution so taken might be kept to the end.