John vi. 47.—" Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me hath I John v. 13.—"These things have I written—that ye may know that ye have eternal life."

Observe, "eternal life" is a present possession not something to be conferred after death, or in a future state, but now.

Mat. xix. 16-17.—"One came and said what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life, and He said unto him—if thou wilt enter into life keep the commandments." the commandments."

John xii. 50.—" I know that His commandment is life everlasting."

So then to keep the commandments is to have eternal life.

John vi. 68.—" Lord to whom shall we go; Thou hast the words of eternal John vi. 68.-

John vi. 1-3.—" The words that I speak unto you they are spirit and they

Not merely speaking words that tell of eternal life, but the words them selves are spirit and life.

John xxii. 3.—"This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only John xxii. 3.—"Thou hast sent."

true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. Here we have another element of eternal life, a "knowledge of the true

I Tim. vi. 12.—"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life."
But that which may be laid hold on may also be let go. The Rev. Fred.
W. Robertson, discussing this point, remarks "It is not the duration but the guality of the life which constitutes its character of "eternal." A spirit may live forever yet not enter into this life and a man live but for the spirit this life and a man live but for the spirit may live forever yet not enter into this life and a man live but for the spirit may live but he spirit may live but he spirit may live but he live forever yet not enter into this life, and a man live but for five minutes the life Divine; in these five minutes he has entered into the life which is eternal, never changes, but is the same unalterably for ever—the life of God."

I John iii. 15.—" Ye know that no murderer hath eternal life dwelling in him."

On the contrary those who cultivate kindly, loving dispositions are in pos-

session of it.

\_"We know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding that we may know Him that is true, even His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

According to this, to be and abide in Him that is true is to have "eternal

These passages will suffice for my present purpose, which is to show that in them the word "eternal" is not used to convey the idea of damnation either in them the word "eternal" is not used to convey the life in Christ. The word is longer or shorter, but to denote the quality of the life in Christ. The word is longer or shorter, but to denote the quality of the life in Christ. The word is longer or shorter, but to denote the quality of the life in Christ. The word is longer or shorter, but to denote the quality of the life in the Aion to come Aionian "Aion" in the adjective from "Aionios;" so that, "in the Aion to come Aionian "ife is precisely the same as if writing to a friend in England, I should say, "If life" is precisely the same as if writing to a friend in England, I should say, "If you come to Canada you will experience Canadian life, or you must go to the prairies to know what prairie life is." And the phrase eternal life, or everlasting prairies to know what prairie life is." affords a foundation for the superstructife, no more than "the world to come," affords a foundation for elsewhere. ture of the theory of a "future life," and it must still be sought for elsewhere.

## LA PETITE MADELAINE.

By Mrs. Southey.

The families of St. Hilaire and Du Resnel were, as has been mentioned, distantly related, and the ties of kindred were strengthened by similarity of faith, both professing that of the Reformed Church, and living on that account faith, both professing that of the Reformed Church on terms of perfect good with the living of the strength of the living of raith, both professing that of the Reformed Church, and living on that account very much within their own circle, though on terms of perfect good-will with the surrounding Catholic neighbourhood. Mlle. de St. Hilaire might naturally the surrounding Catholic neighbourhood in the elder of her cousins her companion have been expected to select among the elder of her cousins her companion have been expected to select among the own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her own; but, too cold-hearted and intimate, their ages nearly assimilating with her sake of others, she found it most convenient to patronise la petite Madelaine, whose gentle spirit and sweet temper insured willing though not servile compliance with even the unreasonable fancies of all who were kind to her, and whose quickness of intellect and excellent capacity more than fitted her for companionship with Adrienne, though the latter was six years her senior. Besides and the latter was six years her senior. sides all, there was the pleasure of patronage—not the least influential motive to a proud and mean spirit, or to the heart of a beauty well-nigh satiated, if that were possible, by the contemplation of her own perfections. When la petite Madelaine was ten years old, and la belle Adrienne sixteen, it therefore happened that the former was much oftener to be found at Chateau St. Hilaire than at least the parental efforts of Manager the parental efforts of Manager than at le Manoir du Résnél; for whenever the parental efforts of Monsieur and Madame de St. Hilaire failed (and they failed too often) to divert the ennui and satisfy the Madame de St. Hilaire failed (and they failed too often) to divert the ennui and satisfy the caprices of their spoiled darling, the latter was wont to exclaim, in the pettish tone of peevish impatience, "Faites donc venir la petite Madelaine!" the pettish tone of peevish impatience, "Faites donc venir la petite Madelaine!" and the innocent charmer was as eagerly sought out and welcomed by the and the innocent charmer was as eagerly sought for by the servants of Saul, to lay harassed parents as ever David was sought for by the servants of Saul, to lay with the sweet breathings of his harp the evil spirit that possessed their unhappy with the sweet breathings of his harp the evil spirit that possessed their unhappy master. Something similar was the influence of la petite Madelaine's nature with the sweet breathings of his harp the evil spirit that possessed their unhappy master. Something similar was the influence of la petite Madelaine's nature over that of her beautiful cousin. No wonder that her presence could scarcely over that of her beautiful cousin. Had her own home been more a be dispensed with at Chateau St. Hilaire. Had her own home been more a be dispensed with at Chateau St. Hilaire. Had her own home been more a home of love, not all the blandishments of the kindest friends, not all the luxuries of a wealthy catablishment would ever have reconciled her to be a luxuries of a wealthy catablishment would ever have reconciled her to be a luxuries. luxuries of a wealthy establishment, would ever have reconciled her to be so much separated from her nearest connections. But, alas! except when her much separated from her nearest connections. But, alas! except when her services were required (and no sparing and light tasks were her assigned ones), services were required (and no sparing and light tasks were her assigned ones), services were required (and no sparing and light tasks were her assigned ones). Solved and the restriction of the restriction o Roland, and le petit frère, who was there to miss la petite Madelaine? And suaded to take him as far as the old mill, half-way between the chateau, to meet her on her way home. Those were pleasant meetings. Madelaine loved often, in after-life, to talk of them with that dear brother, always her faithful friend. It may be accounted an especial mercy if the "mutual friend" is not crippled with the rheumatism for life, or brought into the first stage of a galloping consumption. No such fatal results were, however, in reserve for the termination of la petite Madelaine's official duties; and those, while in requisition, were

liness of her one-and-twentieth summer-and la petite Madelaine began to think people ought to treat her more like a woman-for was she not fifteen complete? Poor little Madelaine! thou hadst indeed arrived at that most womanly era. But, to look at that small slight form, still childishly attired in frock and sash, of the simplest form and homeliest materials—at that almost infantine face, that looked more youthful, and almost beautiful, when it smiled, from the effect of a certain dimple in the left cheek (Adrienne always insisted it was a pock-mark);—to look at that form and face, and the babyish curls of light-brown hair that hung about it quite down the little throat, and lay clustering on the girlish neck—who could ever have thought of paying thee honour due as to the dignity of confirmed womanhood?

So it was Madelaine's fate still to be "La petite Madelaine"—still nobody —that anomalous personage who plays so many parts in society,—as often to suit his own convenience as for that of others; and though people are apt to murmur at being forced into the character, many a one lives to assume it -as one slips off a troublesome costume at a masque, to take shelter under a domino. As for la petite Madelaine, who did not care very much about the matter, though it was a *little* mortifying to be patted on the head, and called "bonne petite," instead of "mademoiselle," as was her undoubted right; from strangers at least, it was better to be somebody in one or two hearts (le petit frère et Jeannette) than in the mere respects of a hundred indifferent people; and as for la belle cousine, Madelaine, though on excellent terms with her, never dreamed of her having a heart,—one cause, perhaps, of their mutual good understanding; for la petite Madelaine, actuated by instinctive perception, felt that it would be perfectly irrational to expect warmth of affection from one constituted so differently from herself; so she went on, satisfied with the consciousness of giving pleasure, and with such return as was made for it.

But la petite Madelaine was soon to be invested with a most important office; one, however, that was by no means to supersede her character of Nobody, but, enigmatical as it may sound, to double her usefulness in that capacity -while, on private and particular occasions, she was to enact a somebody of infinite consequence—that of confidante in a love affair—as la belle cousine was pleased to term her liaison with a very handsome and elegant young officer, who, after some faint opposition on the part of her parents, was duly installed at St. Hilaire as the accepted and acknowledged lover of its beautiful heiress. Walter Barnard (for he was of English birth and parentage), the youngest of three brothers, the elder of whom was a baronet, was most literally a soldier of fortune, his portion, at his father's death, amounting to no more than a pair of colours in a marching regiment—and the splendid income thereunto annexed. But high in health and hope, and "all the world before him where to choose"—of high principles—simple and unvitiated habits—the object of the love of many friends, and the esteem of all his brother officers—the young man was rather disposed to consider his lot in life as peculiarly fortunate, till the pressure of disease fell heavy on him, and he rose from a sick-bed which had held him captive many weeks, the victim of infectious fever, so debilitated in constitution as to be under the necessity of obtaining leave of absence from his regiment, for the purpose (peremptorily insisted on by his physician) of seeking the perfect change of air and scene which was essential to effect his restoration. He was especially enjoined to try the influence of another climate—that of France was promptly decided on—not only from the proximity of that country (a consideration of no small weight in the young soldier's prudential calculations), but because a brother officer was about to join a part of his family then resident at Caen in Normandy, and the pleasure of travelling with him settled the point of Walter's destination so far—and as it fell out, even to that other station on the route of life, only second in awfulness to the "bourne whence no traveller returns." His English friends, who had been some years inhabitants of Caen, were acquainted with many French families in that town and its vicinity, and, among others, Walter was introduced by them at the Chateau de St. Hilaire, where the Protestant English were always welcomed with marked hospitality. The still languishing health of the young soldier excited peculiar interest; he was invited to make frequent trials of the fine air of the chateau and its noble domain. A very few sufficed to convince him that it was far more salubrious than the confined atmosphere at Caen; and very soon the fortunate invalid was installed in all the rights and privileges of "L'Ami de la

• Circumstances having conducted our dramatis personæ to this point, how could it fall out otherwise than that the grateful Walter should fall desperately in love (which, by the bye, he did at first sight) with la belle Adrienne, and that she should determine to fall obstinately in love with him! He, poor fellow! in pure simplicity of heart, really gazed himself into a devoted passion for the youthful beauty, without one interested view towards the charms of the heiress. But, besides thinking him the handsomest man she had ever seen, she was determined in her choice, by knowing it was in direct opposition to the wishes of her parents, who had long selected for her future husband a person so every way unexceptionable, that their fair daughter was very likely to have selected him for herself, had they not committed the fatal error of expressing their wishes with regard to him. There was PERSUASION and DISSUASION—mild opposition and systematic wilfulness—a few tears, got up with considerable effort—vapeurs and migraines in abundance—loss of appetite—hints about broken hearts—and the hearts of the tender parents could hold out no longer—Walter Barnard was received into the family as the future husband of its lovely daughter.

All this time, what had become of la petite Madelaine? What does become of little girls just half-way through their teens, when associated, under similar circumstances, with young ladies who are women grown? Why, they are to be patient listeners to the lover's perfections when he is out of the way, and more patient companions (because perfectly unnoticed at such times) of the lovers' romantic walks; shivering associates (at discreet distance) of their tender communings on mossy banks, under willow and acacia, by pond-sides and brook-sides—by daylight, and twilight, and moonlight—at all seasons, and