

THE CHRISTIAN WATCHMAN

Poetry.

MY DARLING'S SHOES.
God bless the little feet that can never go astray
For the little shoes are empty, in the closest laid
Sometimes I take one in my hand, forgetting till
I see
'Tis a little half-worn shoe, not large enough for
me;
And all at once I feel a sense of bitter loss and
pain,
As sharp as when two years ago it cut my heart
in twain.
O little feet that worried not, I wait for them no
more,
For I am drifting on the tide, but they have
reached the shore;
And while the blinding tear-drops wet these little
shoes so old,
And so I lay them down again, but always turn
to say,
God bless the little feet that now so surely can-
not stray.
And while I thus am standing, I almost seem to
see
Two little forms beside me, just as they used to
be!
Two little faces lifted with their sweet and ten-
der
eyes,
Ah me! I might have thought that look was born
of paradise.
I reach my arms out fondly, but they clasp the
empty air,
There is nothing of my darlings but the shoes
they used to wear.
Oh, the bitterness of parting cannot be done
away,
Till I see my darlings walking where their feet
can never stray;
When I no more am drifted upon the surging
tide,
But with them safely landed upon the river
side;
Be patient heart! while waiting to see their shin-
ing
feet,
For the little feet in the golden street can never
go astray.

The Riverside.

The Last Half Crown.
Hugh Miller, the geologist, journalist and man
of genius, was sitting in his newspaper office late
one dreary winter night. The clerks had all left
and he was preparing to go, when a quick rap
came to the door he said come in, and looking
towards the entrance, saw a little ragged child
all wet with sleet. "Are ye Hugh Miller?"
"Yes."
"Mary Duff wants ye."
"What does she want?"
"She's deen."
Some misty recollections of the name made
him at once start, and with his well-known
plaid and stick, he was soon striding after the
child, who trotted through the now deserted High
street into Canongate. By the time he had got
to the old Playhouse close, Hugh had revived his
memory of Mary Duff, a lively girl who had
been brought up beside him in Cromarty. The
last time he had seen her was at a brother's
marriage, where Mary was best maid and he best
man. He seemed still to see her bright careless
face, her tidy storkwain, and her dark eyes, and
to hear her bantering merry tongue. Down the
close wet the ragged child, and up an outside
stair, Hugh keeping near her with difficulty; in
the passage she held out her hand and touched him,
tapping in his great palm he felt that she wanted
a thumb. Finding her way like a cat through the
darkness, she opened a door, and saying,
"That's her" vanished. By the light of a dying
fire he saw in the corner of a large empty room
something like a woman's clothes, and on drawing
nearer became aware of a thin pale face and two
dark eyes looking keenly but helplessly up at him.
The eyes were plainly Mary Duff's, though he
could recognise no other feature. She wept
silently, gazing steadily at him. "Are you
Mary Duff?" "It's that's o' me Hugh." She
then tried to speak to him, something plainly of
great urgency, but she couldn't, and seeing that
she was very ill, and was making herself worse
he put a half crown into her feverish hand, and
said he would call again in the morning. He
could get no information about her from the
neighbors; they were surely or asleep. When he
returned next morning, the little girl met him
at the stairhead and said, "She's deen." He
went in, and found that it was true; there she
lay, the fire out, her face placid, and the likeness
to her maiden self restored. Hugh thought he
would have known her now, even with those
black eyes closed as they were, in *extrema*—
Seeking out a neighbor, he said he would like to
bury Mary Duff, and arranged for her funeral
with an undertaker in the close. Little seemed
to be a word of the poor outcast, except that she
was a "licht," or, as Solomon would have said
"a strange woman." "Did she drink?" "Whiles."
On the day of the funeral one or two residents
in the close accompanied him to Canongate
churchyard. He observed a decent looking little
old woman watching them, and following at a
distance, though the day was wet and bitter.
After the grave was filled, and he had taken off
his hat, as the men finished their business by
putting on and slapping the sod, he saw this old
woman remaining. She came up, and courtsey-
ing, said, "Ye wed ken that lass, Sir?" "Yes, I
knew her when she was young."
The woman then burst into tears, and told
Hugh that she kept a bit shop at the Close-
mooch, and Mary deen wi' me, an' aye paid
regular, and I feared that she was dead, for she
had been a month awn' me half a crown, and
then with a look and voice of awe, she told him
how on the night he was sent for, and immedi-
ately after he had left, she had been awakened
by some one in the room; and by her bright
fire—for she was a being, well-to-do body,—she
had seen the wasted dying creature, come for-
ward, and said, "Wan't it half a crown?"
"Yes." "There it is," and putting it under the
bolster, vanished! "Alas for Mary Duff! her
career had been a sad one since the day when

she stood side by side with Hugh at the wedding
of their friends. Her father died not long after,
and her mother supplanted her in the affections
of the man to whom she had given her heart.—
The shock was overwhelming, and made home
intolerable. Mary fled from it blighted and em-
bittered, and after a life of shame and sorrow,
crept in the corner of her wretched garret, to
die deserted and alone; giving evidence in her
latest act that honesty had survived amid the
wreck of nearly every other virtue. "My
thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your
ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the
heavens are higher than the earth, so are my
ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts
than your thoughts."

PHILOSOPHY OF BATHING.
The following is from Dr. Mayo G. Smith on
the subject, and is worthy of consideration:
"There are in the human body 2,700,000
glands, and 7,000,000 pores, from 2,000 to 2,500
to the square inch, and one-eighth of an inch
in depth, making twenty-eight miles of human
drainage.
"Five-eighths of all that is eaten passes on
through these pores, and but one per cent. of all
permissible matter consists of solid substances.
The change in the muscles, tissues, and bones,
occurs in from six to seven years. If this
matter be retained, it causes disease—it is a real
virus.
"Some diseases are relieved, almost instantly,
by opening the pores. Diarrhoea is frequently
cured, matter from the mucous membrane is ex-
pelled through the skin; tobacco, opium, and
mercury, thus exuded. Whatever through the
skin the body can expel, it can absorb. Hold
the end of your finger in spirits of turpentine it
is absorbed, goes through the system, and can
be detected by its odor. Constant handling of
arsenic has produced death by absorption."
"The Doctor relates an account of a gentle-
man in the Barbadoes who was in the habit of
daily intoxication, and had constructed a tub with
a pillow to accommodate his head; and when in
this state he was placed therein, and the tub was
filled with cold water, in which he reposed for
two or three hours, and would then arise refreshed
and invigorated. When his wife or family re-
quired him, they would wake him up by taking
the plug and allowing the water to escape, when
he would pleasantly complain of the 'heat'
of his bed clothes."
"Perpiration is eliminated from all parts of
the body, and the excretions, cutaneously forced,
may from some parts of the surface be re-admit-
ted to the circulation, and if poisonous or in-
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dry, tight powder, mixed with sweat and oil from
the glands, and dust, clogs up the pores. As
all parts of the cuticle have pores, as well as the
face and arms, all the body should be bathed at
least one-third as many times as these are."
"On board a slave ship the small-pox sudden-
ly broke out—Medical aid was powerless.—
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them in the sunlight on deck until dried, and
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"At Charleston, S. C., during the recent
epidemic, among several Northern mechanics
who had gone thither in company, but one es-
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the clothes worn by day. The others cast off
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