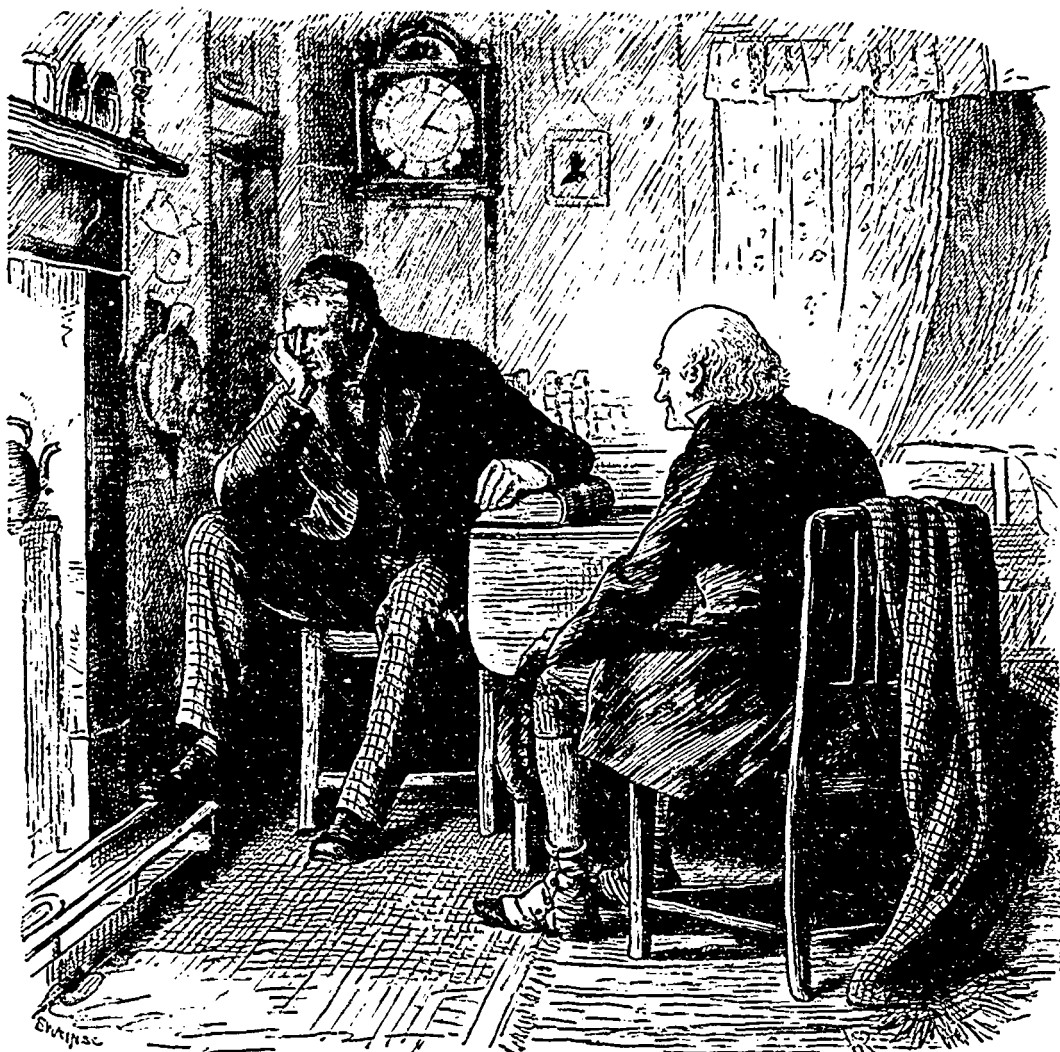


## FRIENDLY GREETINGS.



*"It's all very well for you to talk so, Macintosh!"*

had your fever in the spring, and not in the autumn! As I came through the glen just now the very birds seemed to be praising God. Surely we ought to be as thankful as the birds."

Left to himself, John Milroy mused long over the words of his friend. They had wounded him, but he felt that he deserved to be thus wounded. He turned to the Bible that lay at his elbow, and quickly found passage after passage which enjoined the duty of thanksgiving. And he saw that St. Paul practised what he preached. Again and again he found him giving thanks to God for mercies vouchsafed to himself and to those dear to him. Before one verse John Milroy paused, and read it many times, till tears blurred his vision: "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift." Ah, that precious, wonderful, unspeakable gift—that love which passeth knowledge! How could one who had dared to call that gift his own, who was trusting in that Saviour for salvation, yet cherish a thankless, repining spirit? John Milroy bowed his head in shame and sorrow, convicted of basest ingratitude.

That hour wrought a change in John Milroy, which soon exerted a happy influence on those about him. He believed that it was not too late in life for him to try to acquire, by God's help, a cheerful, thankful habit of mind. It was not an easy acquirement, for mental habits are not more readily changed than bodily ones; but gradually he succeeded. His sons wondered to find their father less keen to detect their faults, and less prone to grumble over things that could not be helped. They had begun to shun their father's society, and they might soon have been driven to frequent undesirable places, had he continued the disagreeable habit that was embittering their home life. The neighbours were surprised to find the man who had been so morose and fault-finding developing into a genial, warm-hearted friend. No one now heard him speak bitterly of the daughter who had deserted him for a husband whom he deemed unworthy of her.

And it was all because John was learning to count his mercies, and to give thanks out of a loving heart for the blessings of his daily life.