

man visiting him. Some would have thought it would never do to leave him, to talk to the discouraged boy, but he excused himself and went. He walked down to the ship yard, as he usually did. He took no notice but what Clarence was doing his work as well as any of the men. At supper he chatted away as if there was not a burden on his mind. When the boys went out to milk the cows he went with them. He told so many interesting stories that, when he was left alone with Clarence, the boy didn't mind telling him some of his discouraged feelings. Mr. Kellogg at once assured him that if he would come down to his house in the evenings, he would teach him navigation."

"And did he go?" asked Hugh eagerly. "Yes, I see by your face that he did."

"Yes, he went, and became a very bright scholar, and, in time, the captain of a fine ship. That night, after he had tried to help the boy, Mr. Kellogg wrote one of the best articles which he has ever had printed."

Hugh drummed slowly on the table for a few moments and then asked, "Is that the way one gets to write good things, mother? I don't wonder that I didn't get on any better. Believe I must go down and see how Egbert Rust is getting on. And tell Peter Fletcher I'll help him home from school the next slippery day;" and Hugh bent down and kissed his mother's cheek. "Thank you for my good writing lesson," he smiled as he went out.

Short and Long.

A great man has said, "There is nothing long that has an end." He meant that when you come to the end of anything and have done with it, on looking back it seems short. The longest life at its close appears so. David, who "died in a good old age," says, "Behold, Thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and my age is as nothing before Thee" (Ps. xxxix 5). Jacob, bowed with a hundred and thirty years, exclaims, "Few and evil have the days of the years of my life been!" Of the man who passed the longest time on earth it is recorded at last, "and he died."

But if this is so with what must end, what shall we say of that which knows no ending, even eternity? Thousands of ages may roll on, yet bring its close no nearer. Of what immense importance then it is how we shall spend it. Are we saved, and saved for ever? Are we to be happy for ever? We can only be so by having our "life hid with Christ in God," that is, committing our soul's interest to His keeping. Let us give our hearts now to Him, let us depend on nothing short of His finished work for salvation, look for nothing less than His Holy Spirit to renew and form us according to His mind and will.

"Brief life is here our portion;  
Brief sorrow, short lived care;  
The life that knows no ending,  
The tearless life, is there."

Toby.

What a pet Toby was, to be sure! He was as black as ink, and his coat was as silky as papa's best hat, while his eyes were the most speaking you ever saw. You cannot think how handsome he looked whenever Ada dressed him up with a bow of crimson satin ribbon round his neck, and made

him sit on the table to beg for his favourite dainty—a sweet biscuit.

He used to run races with us, and was the merriest of playmates, seeking to enjoy it every bit as much as we did. But he came to a most sad end.

We had all been out together one day, when a strange dog ran up to us, and after growling and appearing rather cross, began fighting with Toby. Our pet defended himself valiantly, and we did what we could to help with long sticks. But we could not separate them. They drew nearer and nearer to the edge of a deep railway cutting, and at last they both fell over, and Toby was instantly killed by a passing train.

I cannot tell you how we cried, especially Ada, for he was her particular pet. We went down and picked him up, and carried him home with great sorrow. But I think we were a little consoled by giving him the grandest funeral you ever saw, and by putting up a tombstone, on which Ada expended many hours in carving his name and age.

Poor old Toby! it was a sad ending to a happy life. But we shall never forget our black friend and playmate, however old we may grow.

—There is no policy like politeness; and a good manner is the best thing in the world, either to get a good name or to supply the want of it.

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