

pursue ; for me to leave home seemed impossible. In turning the matter over in my mind I decided on sending my eldest son,—for I could always trust Charles. I accordingly made the necessary arrangements and gave Charles his instructions. The next day he took his journey to London on the stage-coach with the quiet business manner of a man of thirty. It was his first visit to the metropolis. By inquiry he found his way and managed the business upon which he was sent as well as if I had gone myself, and punctually returned home on the fourth day, as directed, walking instead of riding.”

John.—“How was it he did not ride, Mamma ?”

Mamma.—“Because he was just five minutes too late for the coach, and this was owing to the difference of time in the clocks, so that instead of being a quarter of an hour beforehand, he was just early enough to see the coach turn round the corner, and leave him behind.”

John.—“How very mortifying ! what a pity he had not booked his place and they would perhaps have not started quite so soon.”

Mamma.—“I suppose he did not think about it, as travelling so far from home was a new thing to him. However, when he saw the coach run away from him, he determined to follow it on foot ; especially as he had promised his father to return on that day, and there would be no other coach till night.”

John.—“What was the distance, Mamma ?”

Mamma.—“Just fifty miles ; considered a long journey in those days, for you must remember it was before the days of railway speed’ I have read that people used to make their wills before undertaking such a then formidable journey.”

John.—“He must have got home very late, I am thinking.”

Mamma.—“He arrived at L—— just an hour after the arrival of the coach and had to travel yet a distance of four miles before reaching home. Providentially, he met with a friend and neighbour just starting on his homeward road in a pony-gig, and had the relief and satisfaction of riding from the town to his native village.”

John.—“How glad he must have been to have reached home ! what did your grandpapa say to him ?”

Mamma.—“He said, ‘Charles, what made you stay at L——, after the coach came ? I never knew you do such a thing before.’ Charles replied in his straight-forward respectful manner, ‘Father, I have not stopped anywhere on the road from London, from which place I followed on foot the coach to L——, from thence rode home with Mr. G.’ Grandpapa was astonished and delighted at this noble proof of conscientious regard to parental commands, and only regretted that he had given expression to a passing doubt. Unobserved by us an old playmate and schoolfellow of my father’s had been drawn to the spot from a sentence he had overheard, and addressing me, said, ‘Miss.——your papa and I were boys together and a noble one he was, both in school and on the playground. Whatever the engagement, play or work, he threw his whole soul into it. In any disputes on the playground, he was our umpire ; he was a real peace maker, and always ready to give us help in the way of understanding how to work out sums or write exercises—he would never do them because he said it would be cheating. The master said he was the best boy in the school his schoolmates thought so too ; and he added, he was the only boy that escaped a flogging. And when in after years he gave his heart to Jesus through the instrumentality of reading *Beaufoy’s Guide* his aim was to be like his divine master, always to be engaged in doing good ; and God honoured his first efforts in making him the instrument of the conversion of his father and only brother.’

“He honoured his parents and God honoured him, proving the truth of Scripture, ‘Honour thy father and thy mother as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee, that thy days may be prolonged and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.’ A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver or gold.”

John.—“Thank you, Mamma, for your story. If I were a printer, I would print it.”