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Consolation.

FROM THE FRENCH OF LAMARTINE.

Let them fall, these silent tears; let them silently fall
On the pillow that I tread;
Where the loved ones have been, and where they will be,
Or the bloom to follow my head!

Let them fall like the rain on the cold rocky strand,
With a dull and a fruitless rebound,
That no zephyr's light pinion in frolic hath fanned,
No sunbeam hath kissed from the grand.

For what to the heart of my cold brother man
Is this poor breaking heart that I bear?
Too far from my grief its deep anguish to scan,
Too high to look down on my care.

But oh! my eyes never weep such sad tears,
Nor their sky be o'ercast like my own;
May their future light in bright hopes, without fears,
And let mine be the gall-upon stone!

May the glittering crows I have seen all depart
With a smile, (though they looked upon me),
Never feel the deep want of that word to the heart,
That whispers, "I am weeping with thee."

No longer can I then for sympathy turn
To map, who waits its demands;
Let me cherish my grief, let my joy be to mourn,
And thus bury my face in my hands.

In that hour when my heart in its solitude weeps,
And its funeral mantle puts on,
And when none of its once loved possessions it keeps,
Save its weeds for the last hope that's gone!

When Friendship herself turns aside from the path
Where together we often had strayed,
And pierces the heart, like the hollow reed,
Where the hand was too trustfully laid!

And when from our sorrow's contagion men go,
Too feeble to lend us relief,
And we silently walk in our pathway of woe,
Face to face and alone with our grief!

When the future has lost the last charm that could make
The lone spirit desire a tomorrow,
And when every morsel of bread that we take
Is moistened with tears drops of sorrow!

'Tis then through the desolate silence I hear
Thy voice, O my God! speaking rest;
Thy hand can alone raise the weight of dull fear
That lies chilly and cold at my breast.

Then I feel that no words like Thy words have the power
The wild food of my grief to control;
From then consolation is poured in that hour,
When all others have ceased to console.

And when I am drawn as a friend to Thy breast,
Thine arms enfold me as a friend to Thy breast,
The world cannot know the sweet rapture of rest,
The happiness there to be found.

And my soul mounts aloft in a spirit of prayer,
And melts in communion so high,
That, as I stand on the dewy dew that stood there
Has been chased like the dew from mine eye.

'Tis thus the bright sunbeam from rock or from spray
Can absorb the last droppings of rain;
While the blue and the shadow, without heaven's ray,
Might have swept o'er and o'er them in vain.

A GRANDFATHER'S STORY.

BY MISS CAMILLA TOULMIN.

"Be kind to each other,
The night's coming on,
When friend and wife and brother
Perchance may be gone."

CHARLES SWAIN.

"Grandpapa, I want to ask you a question,"
was the exclamation of a rosy-cheeked, intelligent
boy about ten years of age, who, reclining in the
joys of the first day of the summer holidays,
presumed a little on the liberty of speech which
is generally accorded at such a time. Old Mr.
Raymond was seated in an easy chair, which had
been wheeled on to the shady terrace for the
accommodation; around were spread luxuriant
pleasure-grounds, and the summer breeze came
laden with the breath of flowers, and now and
then from a distance might be distinguished the
odour of newly-made hay. As far as the eye
could see was the property of Mr. Raymond,
and of his son, the member for the county,
and father of little Sidney. The house and its
splendid appointments proclaimed wealth and sta-
tion by evidences not easily mistaken.

"Well, Sidney, I am ready to answer your
question," was the old gentleman's reply, as, talk-
ing of his gold spectacles, and laying down the
newspaper, he drew the boy affectionately towards
him.

"Is it true, grandpapa, that when you were a
boy you were poor? I mean very poor, without
any money at all?"

"Quite true."

"But you are very rich now, are you not?"

"Rich, child, as you say; but I thank
God for the blessings which surround me, and I
am what the world calls wealthy. But why do
you ask these questions?"

"Because one of the boys at school," returned
Sidney, "saw something about you in a news-
paper, though I could not understand from his
account exactly what; and when I noticed you
reading the paper this morning, somehow or other
it popped into my head, and I determined to tell
you about it, though I only remember he said you
were quite poor once."

"And would you like to know, Sidney, how
the change was effected?"

"Oh yes. It will be like hearing a story."

"Why, I don't know. I cannot promise to
give you a perfect autobiography; but I will re-
late two or three circumstances which greatly in-
fluenced my destiny, and which, taken together,
might be called the misadventure of my fortunes.
When I have done, you shall tell me to what I
have been indebted for my success in life."

I was born in a sea-port town, where my father
struggled for years to bring up his family. He
was unfortunate in his business, from what cause
it becomes not me now to inquire. But the re-
collection of my childhood is crowded with pain-
ful incidents, the most prominent of which seem
to have arisen from the influence of an opulent
trader in the same line as my father. This was
Mr. Belton, who in early life had been his friend,
for the few succeeding years his rival, and after-
wards, it was said, had become his implacable
enemy. You, Sidney, know nothing about the
miseries which poverty engenders, but ours was
the worst kind of poverty, which, let me tell you,
is that which is associated with debt, and a per-
petual endeavour to keep up appearances. The

very frequent consequences of this state of things
are family dissensions, and the neglect of children.
Unhappily, this was the case at home; my only
sister and I were imperfectly educated, and sub-
jected to all the capricious treatment which is the
certain result of an ill-regulated household. One
good, however, arose out of our misery; our
young hearts were drawn more affectionately to-
gether than I may have been to prosperity; and,
indeed, I felt myself in some sort her protect-
or, for I was three years older than Lucy."

"Why, I, too, have a sister Lucy, three years
younger than myself," interrupted little Sidney,
apparently quite surprised at the coincidence.

"Perhaps," continued Mr. Raymond, "she
was named after my sister Lucy; but I do not
think, my dear boy, there is any other point of
resemblance between you, childhood and mine.

To proceed, however, with my story. Not hav-
ing been brought up to any trade or profession, I
was keenly sensible of the difficulties I might ex-
pect to encounter in life; yet I very early deter-
mined that I would not be a burden on my father,
though many circumstances prevented my leaving
home till I was eighteen years of age. Up to
this time I had assisted him in his business; but
things were getting so bad, that I clearly felt
myself an incubus instead of an aid, and deter-
mined that some change should take place. Liv-
ing, as we did in a sea-port town, where there was
a constant influx of strangers from every part
of the world, it is not surprising that I should hear
a great deal about foreign countries, or that my
thoughts should be directed to making a fortune
abroad. Accordingly, having formed an acquaint-
ance with the master of a trading-vessel, he pro-
mised to take me with him the next voyage, with
the understanding that I was to make myself
generally useful. I had no very definite idea of
where I was to be landed, or how I was to make
the fortune; but I suspect this was the case with
many an adventurer.

It was at night I was to go on board. I had
taken leave of my father and mother; but though
nearly sixty years had passed over my head since
that time, I well remember the yearning of de-
sire which prompted me once again to turn back,
and bid a last adieu to Lucy. I saw my mother
and sister, but my father had parted with me on
board the ship; and when I unexpectedly reached
the house, he was from home, or he would prob-
ably have walked back with me to the harbour.

As it was, I was alone; but scarcely had I been
ten minutes in the street, before a confused noise
burst upon my ear, and presently a red glare in
the heavens proclaimed that there was a dreadful
fire in the town. As I approached the harbour,
I came nearer and nearer to the scene of the con-
flagration, and soon discovered, both from my own
knowledge of the locality and the shouts which I
heard, that the warehouse of Mr. Belton's house
on fire. I must tell you, Sidney, that my family
was not the only one in the town by whom Mr.
Belton was detested; for, from my earliest years,
I can remember the fact that every one spoke ill
of him. I suppose he must have been a harsh
master and stern creditor, and indeed these were
many of the charges against him. I made up my
mind to go to sea, and to leave him to his fate;
but I had not gone far, when I met a man who
told me that Mr. Belton's house was on fire, and
that he had just seen the flames.

Do you know that, so confidently my British
character, taken in the aggregate, he relied
on, that the number of firemen belonging to the
engines has always been wholly inadequate to
working them, for able and hearty volunteers are
always found among the crowd, which the awful
solemnity of a fire attracts, and these supererog-
atory services, usually, draw forth the nobles of
the neighbourhood, and the noblest of the noble,
from their demonstrations of finical gloom. Some-
times a little distance, with folded arms, calm
spectators of the fearful scene; while others
mingled exhortations on Mr. Belton, with savage
cries of joy at every fresh triumph of the un-
bridled element. Had the mob been differently
disposed, the fire might have been extinguished
before it had done much mischief; but the flames
were quickly stayed, and the flames would have
extended to the dwelling-house of Mr. Belton,
which was adjoining. But the exertions of the
firemen seemed really rather to provoke the
fury of the element than to assuage it; and as
the wide tongues of flame darted first through
one window and then another, becoming, in conse-
quence, more and more uncontrollable, it was evi-
dent that unless the most vigorous measures were
taken, the whole pile of buildings must fall a
sacrifice. Notwithstanding the bitter wrong which
I had always understood my family had suffered
from Mr. Belton, I could not but feel shocked at
the conduct of the townspeople; and calling on
those who were within hearing to assist, with all
the rude eloquence I could command, I set them
the example, by beginning to work myself in right
earnest. My words had some little effect, though
my influence was but that of a youth and a stranger,
for my person was quite unknown to the crowd,
and we resided at the opposite end of the town,
and, latterly I had been a good deal from home,
and had, moreover, grown so much during the
last six months, that I was a mere casual acquaint-
ance would certainly not have recognized me. With
all our exertions, however, we were unable to
save the dwelling-house, to which the flames
communicated at last, very suddenly, in conse-
quence of an unexpected change in the wind.
For this catastrophe it seemed Mr. Belton's family
were quite unprepared; and, in truth, they were
so alarmed at the brutal exclamations of the
crowd, that I could easily understand their reluc-
tance to throw themselves on its protection. Ah! my
boy, the horrors of that night are never to be
forgotten by me. After a long life, they come
back as vividly as if it were only yesterday that
those horrid cries rung in my ear, and those horrid
sights flashed before my eyes.

One shrill cry was heard above the tumult, and
at the same moment I beheld a young girl at one
of the upper windows beseeching aid with frantic
gestures. This was Mr. Belton's only and mother-
less child, the darling of his heart, who, in con-
sequence of extreme ill-health, had been unable
for some time to leave her couch. When the fire
broke out, Mr. Belton was from home, and had
not, hitherto, made his appearance; so that Julia,
during the scene of devastation, was only sur-
rounded by servants. Unable to exert herself,
they, by the instinct of self-preservation, fled from
her side; and though the poor child struggled to
the window, it was evident that she was quite un-
able to use the ladder which had been placed

against the already tottering wall. From the
violent exertions I made in endeavouring to stay
the progress of the flames, my feelings became so
excited, that I was just in the mood to undertake
any daring act. Quick as thought were my move-
ments as I sprang up the ladder, and catching the
trembling girl in my arms, as rapidly descended.
Another minute, and I should have been too late;
for, almost as I leaped from the lower rails, the
wall gave way, and the ladder itself was buried
in the ruins. Blinded by the smoke, I yet con-
trived to convey Julia Belton to a place of safety
—indeed to her father's arms; for he arrived on
the spot at the moment I was descending from the
window. In another hour I was on board a ship,
and at daylight we sailed; while, as we retreated
from the shore, the volumes of smoke which
wreathed upwards from the ruins of Mr. Belton's
premises, proclaimed how great the devastation
must have been.

You must remember, Sidney, that half a cen-
tury ago, there were no railroads, nor was there
any steam navigation. England, for example, was
at the time, so that you were often intercepted,
or obliged to wait till several were going, for the
sake of mutual protection. You can easily im-
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were sufficient to convince me of Travers' dupli-
city. Yet was I too happy in finding her un-
changed in her affection, and to my joy, unmar-
ried, to reproach her cousin, as he certainly
deserved, with his cruel deception and unreason-
able conduct in intercepting our letters—for it was
clear from Emily's that she had not received mine.
Travers had but little to offer in apology, though
I was too happy not to forgive him.

I sailed for England, but with what different
emotions to those I had experienced on my first
week before! Separation from my promised wife,
which had at first seemed so dreadful, appeared
nothing now that I was assured of her faith, in
comparison to the misery I had recently endured;
and I felt that every wave which carried me
further from the shores of America, brought me
also nearer to the time when we should meet
again. The vessel in which I sailed was most
suited for London, and I remained some days in
the metropolis, transacting my employer's business,
before I was able to visit my parents. I travelled
in a night-coach, and arrived in my native town
at a late hour. It was the same hour as that at
which I had sailed from my native shore, and I
found it was now autumn, and then it was
spring; yet, at the first glance, the scene was so
similar, that for a moment I almost fancied I
was but waking from a dream. There was the old
church on the hill, looking just as it had looked
in my infancy, and the harbour full of vessels,
and the town, the spot indicated was only a few
quites before I reached our old house; but
judging my surprise at finding it occupied by stran-
gers, I went on to my father's new residence,
civily directed me to my father's new residence,
and I bent my steps to the opposite end of the town. The spot indicated was only a few
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