

(For the Provincial Wesleyan.)
SATURDAY EVENING.
BY LIZZIE LESLIE.

O night, so calm, so still! With fond delight,
Thy peaceful steps I hail, and greet thee as a friend.
Sweet harbingers of rest—sweet heralds of the dawn—
Entrance to hallowed joys, and stepping stone
To quiet Sabbath hours, and calm repose.
No moonlight seems so fair and pure as thine;
No stars so softly bright—no twilight shade
So full of peace. All nature seems subdued,
And meditates on that most wondrous gift
Of sacred rest to man, and silently adores
As some overworn traveller, who gains
The threshold of his all-endearing home,
And in the pleasing prospect seems to breathe
To lose the measure of the toilsome day.
So let me forget each harassing care,
The long and tedious way by which we came,
Each discommoding sore of the past week,
And with glad spirit welcome thee again.
Dear art thou to the loneliest of toil,
As in the dusky distance gleams the light of home.
How cheerfully leaps up the ruddy flame,
Glowing and smiling o'er the unpolished walls;
While pleasant on his ear come mingled tones
From the bright group who joy to have him come.
Six days of patient labour being ended,
Sweet'er seems his simple, hard-earned fare,
As thankfully he counts each moment o'er,
And hopefully looks on to coming days.
O night so pure! Methinks at thy approach
All strife should cease, all anger be subdued;
While guilt, who in the darkness walks abroad
And multiplies her votaries, when thou
In peace dost come, should shrink away for shame.
All should be joy, and happiness, and love,
Beneath thy gentle soul-subduing sway.
O night of dear remembrances! When friends
Long absent from our side seem to come back,
And happy tones, and voices of the past
Start up afresh and echo in the heart—
When gentle sisters, brothers true and kind,
With pleasure-beaming faces, lovingly
Around the dear old home-fire crowd,
When sportive jest and laugh brighten the hour,
And each to each recounted o'er some incident,
Pleasing or painful, of the by-past week—
Thoughts, feelings, fancies, fears, and hopes
Conjuring.
No cold misjudging stranger near, to chill
The sportive rhymer of speech, or check
Its careless, easy, smoothly gliding flow.
How many an absent dear one missed to-night!
How many a vacant place at board a dear heart
Some have gone forth on the world's heaving tide.
And strong of heart and limb are struggling on;
Others, perchance more tender, kneel beneath
Their weary, withering, weight of woe, and now
They sweetly rest with those who sleep in Jesus.
Some have elsewhere found a quiet, happy home,
And gentle hearts to love them; while some
With youth's bright bloom just resting on the brow,
Have left the ark, and ne'er returned again.
Ah! many a lonely mother weeps to-night
O'er scattered household gems, and broken
shirines,
And home-buds withered, when but just unfolding.
Ah! many a gray-haired sire looks round the room,
And sighs for dear ones that once clustered
there;
And buoyant forms 'round which his very being
Seemed centred—and all looks and sighs again,
And mimes on the dream his life has been.
Sweet night of rest, of peace, of purity,
And hallowed memories! A fitting time
Thou seem'st for the tired child of earth
To lay aside each cumbering earth-born care,
And, quietly retiring from its strife,
Its life-consuming care, with joyful haste
Unrobe the spirit for Eternal rest.

ES MOCHE GEWESEN SEIN.
"IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN."
(From the German of Niemann.)
Whence'er the heart by crazy sorrow bowed,
Glimpses o'er the gloaming days that have gone by
And that with anguish how its present lot
Has been all blighted by some dire mistake
Then reads it forth the exceeding bitter cry
"It might have been!"
Perchance the purple vintage, rich and rare,
Radiant with luscious shimmer, mantled o'er
The crystal beaker, hied the taster on,
And plunged his lip down into the abysmal depths
Of woe, whence ever comes the dire refrain,
"It might have been!"
O'er the world's deadening griefs and joys and cares
Some noble nature may have hardened o'er,
Blinded his finer feelings, ta'en away
His youthful aspirations, so that now
The agonizing spirit can but groan
"It might have been!"
Some fair, young, face, mayhap, that ever fresh
Dwells in the mind, and may not be effaced
From thence by lapse of years—the one, sole,
love
Of a whole lifetime—pale, spectre-like, comes
forth
From memory's shadowy depths and whispers
drear
"It might have been!"
Ah! hopeless, hapless, cry! Thy mournful tones
May have no power o'er the heart that feels
The Christ-man for its friend, 'His cheering
voice
That woe the dead of old, rings silver-clear,
Disperses the rising gloom, and says in words
of love
"Peace, troubled heart."

We have received the following note from
Capt. J. D. Coffin, dated Slesmere, England,
in January last. The distressing bereavement
which it reports will be dear to him and his af-
flicted family the sympathy of all their friends
in Nova Scotia.

On the 22nd of Jan. a sad accident occurred
on board the brigantine, of Barrington,
while lying at Falmouth, England.
The Capt. J. D. Coffin, early in the morning,
as usual, called to his son, John Sargent, who
was of twelve years, to get up; there was no reply,
and he was no where to be found. It was as-
certained, that after his father had gone to bed,
which was early, he went on deck for water,
and was not seen to return.
The water cask to which he would go was
empty, and he fell overboard, where he was
found dead and cold. The night was
dark and stormy, the wind blowing hard,
and no doubt the poor boy fell out of the gang-
way, and although there was a watch on deck,
was not seen or heard. Poor little Arthur,
a boy of four years, wept as though his
heart would break; but when he saw his father
and mother in such grief, he had his arms
around their necks, and with his most persuasive
efforts to console them.

Other fathers for many years deeply lamented
the great and universal delinquency in the
training of children in the way they should go,
and he feels his own lack of effort, yet John
was not without instruction and advice, and in
accordance with this, was pious in his prayers
and a good boy. We have a good hope, that
the redeemed above, be his with the sainted
and most noble mother, entered upon that
rest which remains for the people of God.

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Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1871.
EDITORIAL NOTE.

From some cause which we cannot ex-
plain, the usual LEADER, for our Contribu-
ting Editor, has failed to reach us in time
for this week's paper.

(For the Provincial Wesleyan.)
SHALL WE HAVE A GENERAL
CONFERENCE?
No. II.

It was by a peculiar coincidence that our
first letter was published simultaneously with
the appearance of a most gratifying
telegram from Canada. Five or six of the
Methodist bodies in the Western country
have been already in consultation on the
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