

Family Circle.

FATHER'S GROWING OLD JOHN.

Our father's growing old, John, His eyes are growing dim, And years are on his shoulders laid, And heavy with his hair...

Now we must lead the van, John, Through weather foul and fair, And like the old man in the van, And tilt his eye as he goes...

But this is long ago, John, And we are what we are, And we are what we are, And we are what we are...

Yes, father's growing old, John, His eyes are growing dim, And years are on his shoulders laid, And heavy with his hair...

Whatsoever happens, happy in his mind, Be thou; nor at life in life rejoice, Nor weep nor wail when he is resigned...

ANNETTE AND THE WATCH. "Oh, grandpa, do show me your watch, and tell me the story you promised about it," said Annette...

"Well, Annette," said the old man, as he took out his large old-fashioned watch, with its heavy chain and seal, do you suppose that there is anything new which I can tell you about a watch?

"How do you know this watch is going?" asked the old man. "Because I hear it tick, and tick, and tick," said Annette, bending her head close over the watch.

"But I should think it would grow old and rusty and worn out in so many years," said Annette. "It does grow old, and when the hands have gone round once, the watch stops forever—every wheel and spring is completely worn out."

"No," said the old man, musingly, "never wound up again."

"Oh, grandpa, don't such strange watches stop sometimes before they have gone so long, and when they are not worn out?"

"I don't understand you," said Annette, with an earnest look. "What time does your watch say?"

"The hands have passed the eleventh hour of the night, Annette," said her grandfather gravely. "Oh, grandpa, it will stop very soon; do let me see it first," cried Annette.

"But, Annette, you must not be frightened at such things," said her grandfather, gently; "the little watch will tick just as long and steadily if you do think of it, and if you are very quiet, your whole life will seem like a long, pleasant day, and a gay, rosy morning of pleasure, a clear noon-day for work and a calm twilight and evening for rest."

"And that is why you said that the hands of your watch have passed eleven at night," said Annette. "That night, as Annette heard the old clock in the corner ticking, she thought of what her grandfather had said, and so, day after day, the old clock taught her a lesson of life."

"Oh, grandpa, grandpa!" cried Annette, impulsively, throwing herself on the bed, and bursting into tears. "Annette, darling," said her grandfather, soothingly, "don't grieve for me; it is only my body that is worn out. My spirit is strong, and bright, and it is glad to be free for a new and better life."

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Serpent Fascination Denied.

Business led me to cross the Chilhowee mountains, in Tennessee, on the 17th of June, 1857. When at the foot of the mountains, I was informed that a couple of rods distance from the road, there were acting in a manner new and strange to me. They were in an open space, near the stump of a fallen tree, but did not take flight on my approach, as, under ordinary circumstances, they would have done.

It is very weak and silly to be vain of rich clothes, beautiful faces, or elegant mansions. This, every child knows, having been taught by oracles by and nursery stories that these cannot be trusted in. He knows that our ornaments, however much we may boast of them, are the gifts of the world, and that the veil shall be torn away and our true selves revealed.

It is the opinion of skillful medical observers that nearly all the novel diseases which now afflict many American cities, owe their origin to the organic disordered matter taken up by vegetables and other diseases are propagated by vegetables grown in soil thus manured. Yet, it is stated that these death-dispersing deposits are absolutely none in the market gardens around our large American cities in their natural state, and many of the fruits and vegetables so grown can be fed by the people with safety, before they are cooked and in the process of cooking.

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