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Poem: By the Fireside

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By The Fireside.

BY T. B. LIVINGSTON.

I.

Fain would I fitly try to tell,
With naught but homely joy and pride.
Of all the virtues fair which dwell
In un'son by the fireside ;
But tho' my tongue would greatly speak,
I can but draw its praises mild,
For e'en to soothe the spirit bleak
There's virtue "by the fireside."

II.

Here deadly passions should not burn,
Nor gloomy fears have any sway ;
For here with joy the weary turn
To rest themselves each closing day.
Ah, yes ; and here, too, all that's pure
In this dark, dreary world abide,
For in their innocence, I'm sure,
They're children "by the fireside."

III.

Here youths whose oft-repeated dreams,
View fame's fair temple reared ahead ;
Within whose breasts ambitious schemes
Impatient and unwise doth spread ;
Yea, here we get the counsels sage
From those the self-same paths have tried
To plod the way, tho' unrepaid,
Of duty "by the fireside."

IV.

Here tho' there may be vacant chairs,
And dreary mem'ries of the past;
Still all in brighter light appears
And worry gets her chilling blast;
For here, where innocence is reared,
Sits peace and beauty side by side,
And even hardened men discard
Their vices "by the fireside."

PHILANTHROPY A WORTHY VOCATION.

BY ARTHUR TURNER

Somewhere in the Bible I have read that man was created a little lower than angels, but I must confess I have never read where he should perpetually remain in that position. I should like to think of there being a possibility of his rising to an exalted position in the presence of his Maker, even where angels are not permitted. But certainly, I would not be so narrow as to conclude that such a place could be reached by any ordinary effort, nor could I believe that such a glory is the reward of a selfish man.

It is indeed fortunate to be born into this world; but it is more fortunate to be allowed to choose one's own course in life. However, a young man or woman is never placed in a more critical position than when called to decide his or her future; because the state of existence in that life beyond depends upon this decision. Moreover, a high position in the life to come may necessitate the lowliest position in the life that is.

There are many worthy causes in which one might engage; but I would suggest that, whenever a young person is puzzled as to what vocation he should choose, decide upon philanthropy. For, after all, our mission upon this earth is, either directly or indirectly, to make this old world better for having lived in it.