

POETRY.

Things Have Changed.

Ah, yes, my childhoods happy home
Hath lost its standard charm;
No more I feel that halcyon bliss
Which life but once can form.

For while I lean my throbbing brow
Upon my darling's heart,
We consecrate our living woe,
And feel we've never part.

But, mother, oh! where is the isle
In life's wild raging tide
That is not drenched with sorrow's wave
Wherein my life might hide?

A brave Boy.

Napoleon used to speak of "four
o'clock in the morning" courage, which
he thought the only kind worth much
admiration. He meant, we suppose,
what is called presence of mind—the
ability to decide rapidly upon and as
rapidly to do the best thing or nearest
the best thing required in an emergency.

A boy, Frederick Perrine by name,
and only fourteen years of age, had
occasion to go from some place near
Exmouth in a small dingy, when the
tide suddenly swept him out into the
open sea. There was a brisk gale from
the N. E., and the boy immediately got
up his mast and sail, vainly hop-
ing to find some sheltered place where
he could land. He was fast driven,
however, upon the heavy breakers—
When he was within a hundred yards
of Dawlish Beach he perceived, in the
desperate hope of holding on until the
sea should a little subside. He had
now attracted the attention of those on
shore to his perilous situation, but it
was impossible to send him aid with-
out too great a risk of life. Nothing
could be done in the broken water, with
occasional heavy rollers, except a life-
boat, and the life-boat was at Tigmouth.
The little fellow in the dingy
made up his mind that he would soon
swamp where he was, so he rapidly
got up his mast and sail again, weigh-
ed his anchor and stood to the West-
ward, his craft almost on her beam ends.

Over the first roller she went like
a seagull, but she was speedily becalmed,
so that it seemed inevitable that she
must soon broach to, be rolled over and
knocked to pieces. The small mariner,
however, remained perfectly collected,
with his tiller in one hand and the
sheet in the other. Then the gale
caught his sail, and over the sea
roller he went right upon the beach—
There was now no need of the life-boat
from Tigmouth, and she was counter-
manded. Admiral Craigie, supported
in his opinion by a naval friend of
experience who saw the whole, testified
that this boy of fourteen did the very
best that could be done under the cir-
cumstances, took the only course which
afforded the least chance of escape, and
showed (to use the Admiral's word)
that "courage, self-reliance, and judg-
ment are the chief elements of success
on such occasions."

What a contrast does the calm brav-
ery of this boy exhibit to the panic
fear often betrayed by men in like em-
ergent cases—the helms terror, the suicidal
prostration, and the miserable despair!
The lad was young, but he was old
enough to comprehend fully the exigen-
cy of the situation. His judgment may
have been no better than that of man
similarly imperilled, but such as it was
he was master of it. We have all a love
of life, but how many of us have a trust-
worthy instinct of self-preservation?
How many, since it is self-defence, in one
form or another, which fills so many
graves?

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