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TEN DAYS BEFORE DEATH.

His Splendid Health and Physique-Personal Appearance-The Room Where The Novelist Worked-His Last Talk-The Methods He Employed in Writing His Stories. (Copyrighte !, 1888.)

It was just ten days before the literary death of Edward Payson Roe that of a beautiful summer day at the Cornwall

and I noticed he was slightly bald in front His large, dark brown eyes were the most striking index of the character and genius BROCK, watchmaker, jeweller and en-bas every facility for manufacturing such times I thought a tired, thoughtful expression came over the face. His voice was deep and mellow, and his manners were cordial with a child's simplicity, yet there was about him an impregnable dignity. He seemed to delight in gentle humor occasionally. The members of his family and the servants had long since learned that, if they wished to impress some household duty or errand on the author's mind when in one of his dreamy moods, they repeated the message until they were convinced that he had ceased his musings else he would declare that no such request was made of him.

When out of working hours if Mr. Roe was not resting comfortably on the verandah he was sure to be scouring the innumerable paths which lead out in every direction over his twenty-three acres of summer domain. He employed a high-priced gardener, who kept a daily record of vegetation from the time the seed was planted until it reached its developments. Mr. Roe kept four or five well-groomed horses in his stables, and delighted in long drives. He TIERNEY BROS, have removed to their new premises, Brock Street, Market Square, where they show the largest and finest stock of Imported and Domestic Liquors, Teas, Cigars, &c., door sport was hunting, and he frequently went off on a long tramp with his rifle in one hand, a hunting bag thrown across his back, and his handsome greyhound "Zip" tagging at his heels. From the rear end of his little farm he could tramp ahead for thirty miles without once getting out of the

The house inside is remarkably cozy and comfortable. A wide hall runs through the house to another verandah in the rear. The stairs begins half-way down the centre. The first door to the left on entering leads into a tastefully furnished parlor. A grand piano, guitars, banjos and tambourines indicate the musical tastes of the author's children. Adjoining this room is one which would probably be of greater interest to the reader. It was Mr. Roe's library into which I was conducted. Large book cases covered W. ADAMH, mnfr. Men's work a specialty two sides of the room. Here were the Factory work on hand. Brock St. near Markt works of Thackeray, Dickens, Eliot, Scott, Lamb, Bulwer, Charles Reade, and a host of other novelists and poets, and the books of nearly all of our present-day writers of fic tion; theological works had a fair showing, which recalled Mr. Roe's early profession. On the walls hung rough sketches, etchings, wood cuts, photographs and engravings, all artistic treasure trove and all helpful in illustrating nature. The mantels were covered with bric a brac and photographs of several contemporary authors. Not the least interesting furniture of the library were re miniscences of hunting days in the form of skins of Alaska foxes thrown over the backs of chairs, and which were shot by Mr. Roe himself. On the top of one of the bookcases were half a dozen large California birds, and in a corner stood the little rifle which did the deadly work.

The dining room is in the front of the house, on the opposite side of the hall. It is a plain, comfortable apartment, where you can see some rare old china, an oldfashioned sideboard, and many pictures. was a genial company that gathered around DR. W. G. ANGLIN, M.R.C.S., ENG., the mahogany on the day of my visit. Hardly a week went by but that the author had from ten to twenty guests at his table, and he seemed at his best when standing at the head of the festive board with carvingknife in hand, dispensing the viands after the manner of the old-fashioned school of hospitality. All formality disappeared at BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, CONVEYANCER, &c hospitality. All formality disappeared at Ford's Block, Brock Street, Kingston. Money his table, and it was truly a feast of good things and bright conversation.

After dinner Mr. Roe led me up two BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, CONVEYANCER, &c. flights of stairs, and turning abruptly into a back room he invited me to a seat. "This is my workshop," he said, "which I doubt if you will find very interesting." It was an oblong, irregular-shaped room, with slanting ceilings and three windows. The furniture consisted of two or three chairs OFFICE—203 Wellington Street, twodoors north of Princess St., lately occupied by Dr. Garrett, were fur skins. On the side of the room Telephone No. 218. table desk, strewn with books, manuscripts, letters, and almost everything else that falls within the author's fancy. There was always a bouquet of flowers on the desk supplied by the author's children. When writing Mr. Roe occupied a broad casy A. STACKHOUSE, L. D. S., corner of Princess stood a little book case filled with his own and Bagot streets. writings, and at the ether end of the room four or five deep shelves built into the wall were loaded with books of fiction and magazines. The view from the window embraced a stretch of river, Storm King and Beacon mountains, and the gap in the highlands with wooden foreground. The yard beneath was filled with shade and fruit trees. This picturesque scenery was a constant source of inspiration to the writer. The rear win dows offered a view up a pleasant little valley skirting Round Top and Deer Hill mountains, and looked over Mr. Roe's gardens, orchards, and vineyard, and the open country beyond. A bright wood fire burned in a little stove in the corner of the study when the weather was chilly, but the author rather worked with an overcoat on than it a room heated by a gas fire. HIS LAST TALK.

"I have never been interviewed but once or twice," he said. "As a rule, I prefer the utmost privacy possible to a man who appeals to the public for his support; but as you come from a friend of mine I am willing to submit to the ordeal." "Well, then, tell me about your methods

"I usually go into my study at nine o'clock six mornings of the week, and work until l feel a sense of weariness. Then I stop, for I do not believe in forcing literary work, nor do I believe in artificial stimulant, so there is nothing left for me but to stop working when I feel weary. I generally keep a

"Yes, I am a diligent reader of the daily newspapers, and believe they give one the current history of the day. Anything that shing in the newspapers that gives glimpses of human nature. I take papers of opposite Some newspaper paragraphs are very sug-

gestive to a literary man. "What are your opinions on the results of your labors in writing." "I cannot judge of that for myself, but a have had a great many proofs in letters that my books have had a good moral influence. Many of my readers appeal to me for sym-pathy through letters, and tell me that I describe experiences very similar to their own. These letters are a constant source of encouragement to me." Mr. Roe stepped to a bookcase and brought forth two or three large packages of carefully-folded letters. One gentleman wrote that he had just read "Without a Home," and added : "I have a friend who was a perfect slave of the opium habit until he read your book about six months ago, since which he has not touched

the poisonous drug." "What first tempted you to write a no-

"Well, when the great fire broke out in Chicago it occurred to me that it afforded an excellent subject for a book of some kind. had a passionate desire to see the city in its houseless, homeless condition, and I went to Chicago and spent several days among the ruins and the people who found refuge in various places. I wandered around night and day, taking notes all the time. I was then leading the busy life of a pastor, and it took me a year at odd intervals to write Barriers Burned Away.' When I was half finished I called on my neighbour, Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, and asked for his opinion of it. He encouraged me. Dr. George Ripley, of the New York Tribune, was one of the first to give me any real encouragement, and his verdict of fifteen years ago has been sustained by the public. My first book has had a sale of 160,000 volumes, and 150,000 copies of 'Without a Home' have been sold. 'Barriers Burned Away' was first published in serial form by Dr. Henry Field in the New York Evangelist. The sale of my first books, instead of declining, is constantly increasing. I have now made arrangements with an English publisher through full copyright and a handsome bonus besides, so that I have practically the same arrangements as I have with my American publisher." "What hold do your characters in fiction

take upon you ?" "My characters lead me. I have had characters that took strong possession of me and seemed to be real, so that they sometimes haunted me. Often I find my heroine very fascinating and commanding all my sympa thy. In my book, 'Without a Home,' felt from the first that Mr. Joselyn was going to ruin without his opium habit, but I could not stop him and suffered much with him. In fact, all the characters in this book took a strong hold on me. I felt the death of Joselyn's daughter almost as much as though it was a member of my own family. It proved to be one of my most successful books. I visited institutions, talked with opium eaters and physicians, and read everything I could get hold of on the opium habit before I began writing the book."

"What is your ideal working day?" "Of course a delightful day always tempts one out of doors, but when I once get to work I am completely wrapped up in my novel ; and as wholly abstracted from real life as are the characters which claim my attention. At such times I am rather strict about interruptions. I always allow myself to wake naturally in the mornings. Sometimes I wake up very early and take a stroll about my farm, listening to the birds as they sing in concert, and trying to distinguish which begins his morning carol first. I sit down to breakfast at 8 o'clock. It consists principally of fruit in season and a dish of oatmeal, and a cup of coffee in winter. There are three months of the year when I pretend to do little work in my study. They are May, June and October. During these months nature is too fascinating for me."

HIS FAVORITE AUTHORS. "Who are your contemporary authors ?" "Well, most all are friends of mine. Nathaniel Hawthorne is my favorite among the old authors, and I think his son, Julian Hawthorne, has great power. Thackery and Dickens are my English favorites. Richard Henry Stoddard is, in my opinion, one of the best living critics, and he has written some beautiful poetry. I prefer the writings of Robert Stevenson to those of Rider Haggard. Stevenson's style is very fine, and the interest is admirably sustained. Mr. Howells I consider the most felicitous of living novel writers, only he doesn't touch the deeper springs of life as a rule. Joel Chandler Harris leads the southern writers, and Thomas Nelson Page gives promise of remarkable power. Clark Russell's earlier sea stories always interested me. I think that Amelie Rives is endowed with real genius, and her earlier stories have unusual power and pathos. The time will come, when her mind is more matured, when she will write something of very great vitality. I think Julian Magruder's story, 'Honored in the Breach,' is a charming love story. Balzac, the French novelist, I have enjoyed much. I stick to the old poets chiefly. Miss Edith Thomas among the later poets has written some beautiful things. Give me Edmund Clarence Stedman for power of critical poetical distinction. I think Mr. Alden, of Harper's Magazine, is the greatest of magazine editors, and for poetical portrayal of nature in illustrative work Mr. Hamilton Gibson leads the artists of America. One of the most gifted women in America, who has no superior among ladies with pen and pencil, is, in my opinion, Mrs. Mary Hallock Foote. Mr. John Burroughs has no living equal in this country as an interpreter of nature through his pen. But there are many others who are doing excellent work, and it is so hard to draw comparisons. An hour passed away in this pleasant con-

versational manner, the famous novelist being in the very best of spirits. When I left the pleasant home he accompanied me to the gate, and the hearty good-bye and the warm grasp of the hand betokened naught of the change which would so soon silence that cheery voice and lay still that skilful JOHN ANGUS MCKAY.

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