

### Questions.

What is the subject of this narration? How long was it since her mother died? What remembrances did the sight of her mother's grave bring to her mind? Were they all serene? Tell us what happened? Did she not ask for forgiveness? Why was she not absolved? Does she regret to this day her ingratitude? What is the moral of this lesson?

### XX.

### A comparison.

Pliny, and old Roman writer, who lived about seventy years after Christ, has made a beautiful comparison between the course of a great river and the life of man.

The river, he says, springs from the earth, and yet its real origin is in heaven. Its beginnings are small enough: at first it is a tiny thing, playing among the flowers of a meadow; then it grows a little larger and waters a garden, or it may be, turns a mill. This may

be likened to the time of childhood. But to our childhood succeeds our youth.

The river has gathered strength, and has grown wild and impetuous. It is impatient of the restraint which it meets with in its rocky home; it is restless and turbulent, quick in its motion, and often unsteady in its course. It dashes away from the hills and rocks, and flows out into the open plain. Thus youth gives place to manhood, and the man goes out into the broad world.

Then we see the river loosing gradually something of its turbulence; it flows more steadily through green fields, which it renders fertile; and instead of dashing headlong against every thing which opposes its course, it yields to obstacles which it cannot overcome, and its stream becomes gentle and winding.

Now it flows past great cities and the busy haunts of men; wherever it goes, it renders service to man; it bears wealth on its broad waters, it enriches the soil, and is at once the support and the ornament of the country.

Other rivers flow into it, and swell its tide, till, at last, it rolls its mighty waters into the broad ocean that awaits it.



So, after a busy manhood, it will be with us. Every step of our course will draw us nearer and nearer the great ocean of eternity, into which we must enter at last, and, like the waters of the river when they reach the sea, be lost forever to the eyes of man.

### Sentences.

- Nº 1. A beautiful comparison between the course of a river and the life of man.  
 „ 2. At first it is a tiny thing playing among the flowers of a meadow.  
 „ 3. It is impatient of the restraint which it meets with in its rocky home.  
 „ 4. It dashes away from the hills and rocks, and flows out into the open plain.  
 „ 5. It yields to obstacles which it cannot overcome, and its stream becomes gentle and winding.  
 „ 6. Wherever it grows it renders service to man.  
 „ 7. Every step of our course will draw us nearer the great ocean of eternity.

### Questions.

Who was Pliny? Where did he live? What are the subjects of his comparison? Relate the first part of the comparison. Relate the second. What do you think of the comparison?



## Second Part.

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