

## The Past and Future

The past to me has been one vale of tears In the early days of youth, and even in childhood; I wept when other smiled. When happiness seemed welling up from evry heart mine was weighed down with misery. Even one blessed dream of joy was denied me. But no! I have dreamed of joy and happiness; and when I came to know that it was but a dream, despair settled on my young heart, only to be removed by another short deceitful dream of bliss.

But there is happiness in store for me. ~~then~~ Then why should I repine? I judge not the future by the past. Why should I? Hope cannot die.

~~When I think of the future it seems all joy and happiness~~ And when I cast a retrospective view, over the vista of months and years, gone by, it seemes all dark and gloomy. It calleth up no pleasant reccollections. But when I think of the future imagination picturs hours of happiness. And though ~~they~~ they may not be realized in this world I trust eternity will grant ~~to~~ me the boon of lasting happiness.

E.S.H.

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