

**MIDDLEFORD HALL,  
A  
TALE FOR CHILDREN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649648573

Middleford Hall, a Tale for Children by Philorphanos

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**PHILORPHANOS**

**MIDDLEFORD HALL,  
A  
TALE FOR CHILDREN**



# MIDDLEFORD HALL.

A TALE FOR CHILDREN.

EDITED BY THE AUTHOR OF "ELLESTON PRIORY;"  
"CLAIRE MAITLAND," &c.

"Be it a weakness, it deserves some praise,  
We love the play-place of our early days;  
The scene is touching, and the heart is stone,  
That feels not at that sight, and feels at none.

This fond attachment to the well-known place,  
Whence first we started into life's long race,  
Maintains its hold with such unfeeling sway,  
We feel it even in age, and at our latest day."

COWPER.

—:O:—

London:  
THOMAS RICHARDSON AND SONS,  
26, Paternoster Row; and Derby.  
1877.



**My dear Children,**

This simple little tale was written, at the suggestion of a friend, during the long hours of convalescence that succeeded to a severe illness. It has no great literary merits; but if, by the perusal of its pages, some amongst you may be led to help God's poor for His own dear sake, and to feel a more grateful and affectionate reverence for your kind parents, who seek to secure to you a happy childhood, then the aim will be attained of your sincere friend and well wisher,

**PHILOPHANOS.**





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# MIDDLEFORD HALL.

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## CHAPTER I.

### HOME, SWEET HOME.

“Somewhat back from the village street  
Stands the old-fashioned country seat;  
Across its antique portico  
Tall poplar trees their shadows throw;  
And from its station in the hall  
An ancient timepiece says to all,  
‘For ever—never!  
Never—for ever!’

In that mansion used to be  
Free-hearted Hospitality;  
His great fires up the chimney roar’d,  
The stranger feasted at his board;  
But, like the skeleton at the feast,  
That warning time-piece never ceased:  
‘For ever—never!  
Never—for ever!’”—LONGFELLOW.

“Papa, dear papa, look! there’s Middleford peeping through the trees; and now I see Grovewood, and the smoke, curling above the firs and oaks, from Mrs. Shepard’s cottage. What fun we had last year, nutting and gipsying there! She’s a cross old woman, though; I recollect how she scolded us