My Grandfather's Clock

Henry Clay Work, 1876





My grandfather's clock was too large for the shelf, So it stood ninety years on the floor; It was taller by half than the old man himself, Tho' it weighed not a pen-ny weight more. It was bought of the morn of the day that he was born, And was always his treasure and pride; But it stopped short, never to go again, When the old man died.

(Chorus)

Ninety years without slumbering: Tick, tock, tick tock, His life's seconds numbering: Tick, tock, tick, tock, It stopped short, never to go again, When the old man died.

In watching its pendulum swing to and fro, Many hours he had spent as a boy; And in childhood and manhood the clock seemed to know And to share both his grief and his joy, For it struck twenty-four when he entered at the door With a blooming and beautiful bride; But it stopped, short, never to go again, When the old man died.

My grandfather said, that of those he could hire, Not a servant so faithful he found; For it wasted no time, and had but one desire -At the close of each week to be wound, And it kept in its place not a frown upon its face, And its hands never hung by its side; But it stopped, short, never to go again, When the old man died.