

"We shall be late, Aunt Fanny ; let me put on your rubbers "

" No, I won't ;" and the old maid gave her niece a vigorous push. " You may black Edward Carswell's boots and welcome, if ever you get the chance, and Mr. Rose's into the bargain, for anything I care—not, but that I should pity those gentlemen, if they had to wear boots that had been in your hands !"

" Come, come, Aunt Fanny, do hurry yourself a little," said Mrs. Somerville, with a laugh ; " there is Ronald at the door, now."

When the party arrived at the hall, there were only a few persons present. The piano accompanist could not come until nine o'clock, and her substitute did not put in an appearance at all.

" We shall just be sent home," peevishly remarked Miss Wood ; " Ronald, do leave us for a moment and inquire what they are going to do."

Mr. McFarlane did so, but soon returned, and said, " Several of the officers thought that we must of necessity adjourn without opening the meeting at all, but Mr. Rose would not hear of sending the people away. Therefore it was pro-