

CHAPTER XVIII

THE END OF THE SIN OF SILENCE

DULCIE'S married life was short ; but also it was happy. Her happiness had limitations of which she was fully aware from the first, which she accepted as inevitable and at which she never grumbled, even inwardly. Parochial work she completely laid aside ; the parish saw Her Reverence no more—and, as of the dead, there was little but good spoken of her. Mrs. Forby's prophetic soul had argued rightly when she said that many of Dulcie's unpopular public performances were caused by the want felt by many single women of a domestic arena for their abilities and virtues. "She longs for what we have and she has not,—home, wifehood and motherhood," said Mrs. Forby. She now had all three, in so far as they were possible to her, and contentment filled her soul. She still had to run the gauntlet of Guild opinion ; but now that that assembly was relieved of her interfer-