

much of the painful embarrassment with which the new day began; and for the most part she was quiet and submissive. As the days passed, and she grew better, and was, presently, able to sit in the large easy chair, and watch the passers-by, on the street below, it became evident that she was very much subdued. One circumstance contributed largely to this result. Mrs. Burnham, in looking over a trunk of packed away treasures, in search of something for which Minta had asked, came suddenly upon a little box of Seraph's, that had not been opened. It closed with a spring that Ruth did not understand; but as she held it in her hand, it appeared that her fingers must have touched the hidden spring, for it flew open, and on the top lay a letter addressed to Minta, in her sister's familiar writing. Ruth, much moved, ceased her search, and carried the letter at once and in silence to the pale-faced girl lying back among the cushions of the easy chair. She did not know, either then nor afterwards, what words Seraph had spoken for her last ones; but Minta's eyes were red with weeping when she saw her again, and her voice seemed gentler, and her manner more subdued, after that time. It became apparent that she also had anxious thoughts about the future. She asked often for word from her father. When was he coming? Did he know that she was there? What had he said? And once, she asked did Ruth think "papa would