

"I went away directly he came in, but I thought he looked a kind old man. Mrs. Dunham says he and his father and grandfather have been the Marneys' solicitors for three generations, and have always known all their affairs.

"When I think over that last interview, all we said seems rather meaningless and trivial. If I had known she was going I would have liked just to thank her for sending for me; and to tell her I was very proud to belong to her, for she was an ideal old lady to look at, and you would have been proud of her too. Besides, I might have told her that we would both remember her loyally always, and other things which would have pleased and comforted her and yet been quite, quite true.

"But, no, instead of all this I sat still and was more anxious to talk about you than to listen to the last words she was ever going to say to me in this world.

"During those long hours when we were all waiting through the night, waiting—oh, how dreadful!—through the night—for her to die—she spoke only twice, almost as though in her sleep. Once she said, '*The horse-chestnuts are coming out in the avenue.*' I felt that her spirit was a long way off in the past, back at Orsett, in the country, the spring-time and the sunshine.

"The next time it would have been funny if it had not been so terribly pathetic, for she said half crying, '*Mary Ann is very cross. She won't let me go the fair,*' so then she must have been a little girl again. I hope she died like that, and did not go away into the dark thinking of herself as an old woman, with nobody but Mrs. Dunham and Mrs. Pyke left behind to be sorry for her.

"Your photo was under her pillow, so I have got it back again at last. I wish I hadn't grudged it to her so much.

"It was all like a dream afterwards. I shook hands with one or two people, but I scarcely know who they were. One was the doctor, but neither he nor the parson seemed to know her at all well. Mrs. Dunham said she didn't believe in