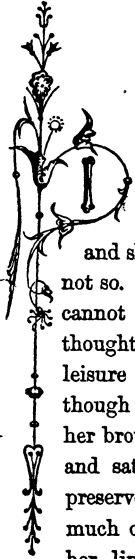




CHAPTER XVIII.

Going Home.

"Fold her, oh Father, in Thine arms,
And let her henceforth be
A messenger of love between
Our human hearts and Thee."



It might have been thought that Katie's life would have been a very sad and lonely one after her friend's marriage and departure, and she had once feared this herself, but it was not so. Her heart was too full of the peace which cannot be taken away, and her time too full of thought and work for others, to leave her much leisure for realising the sense of her loneliness, though she did continually miss Helen, as well as her brother, from whom, however, she had regular and satisfactory letters that helped not a little to preserve her cheerfulness. She tried to keep up as much of Helen's visiting and other work as, with her limited strength, she could overtake, and at home she always had Martha's watchful care and Mr Grey's genial kindness, as well as abundance of interesting