

" 'Poor little Effie ! hers had been a very expensive education, but she was sadly ignorant in many respects ; she desired to be useful as well as accomplished ; a really good wife—so she learnt many an excellent lesson from the poor widow, and greatly cheered her during her visits.

" 'Ere many weeks passed Effie's marriage took place ; and she left London to live in a quiet town, her new home being the vicarage, a rambling old place.

" 'What a wonderful change of scene this was to the young girl ! Her husband seemed to have so much to attend to, and interested her in those around ; but he often found her in a state of wonderment ; she wished to superintend the domestic arrangements, but the two servants soon saw how incompetent she was, and many busy, clever, unamiable women were ever on the alert to trip her up in some little work she was engaged in in her husband's parish. Fortunately, she knew who could comfort her, and great was her joy when her husband proposed her sending for her poor friend the widow to be a kind of housekeeper ; and he dryly remarked, Then, when I am deep in my subject you will find it less dull, having a sensible woman to chat to sometimes.

" 'You can easily imagine how the widow had missed Effie, and received the offer with gratitude. For the last time she watched the sparrows flying to the opposite window to partake of their crumbs.

" 'How often this sight had cheered her and strengthened her faith ; now her heart was full, a useful life was before her ; she was naturally a bright, clever woman, sorrow for a time had crushed her spirit, she had found that poverty was not so hard to bear as loneliness. She packed her few things together, sold her scanty furniture, and prepared her wardrobe, for Effie, with a thoughtfulness worthy of her, had sent her the means to replenish and make a respectable appearance. And never did she repent : she soon learnt the mysteries of housekeeping, her husband praised her ; and every loving wife well knows what that means.

" 'Long did the widow remain in this happy home ; she