

CHAPTER VI.

Last * Teaching.

VALENS SCHOOL, 1885-87.

THESE were the closing years of her life-work. They were the years of her ripened experience, the years in which she brought to bear all the gathered wisdom of her past life; the years of her deepest desire and her most entire devotion to the work and the most whole-hearted consecration to her life-purpose of living for the good of others, the years during which she realized most fully the high privilege and the deep responsibility of the teacher, the years above all others in which she enjoyed the work of her calling, and counted it a joy to labor for the welfare of those entrusted to her charge, during which she seemed to work under the deep and often expressed conviction that her time was short. It was with a thrill of pleasure that the writer heard the announcement that she had accepted the charge of the Valens School, under the deep conviction that the best interests of all concerned would receive her most hearty sympathy and earnest efforts, that her coming would be fraught with blessing to the neighborhood, and the highest expectations were more than realized. Owing to her kind and conciliatory manner and her good common sense, divisions that had been, began to heal, and long before she left they had entirely disappeared. She gained the good will of her pupils, and through them obtained access to the homes from whence they came, and to obtain access to them was to make them her friends, and soon she became an acknowledged power in the community, and even outside of her section, no one was more welcome to any home than Jessie Robertson.