

walls, and the broken chairs, wooden table, &c., which constitute the furniture of the miserable dwelling. Oh ye whose garner is filled with plenty, be not unmindful of the sons of want, but give of your abundance with a liberal hand and a warm heart, so shall "the blessing of those who were ready to perish come upon you."

But mournfully as moaned the wind, fiercer as grew the tempest, it was unheeded by a group who were seated in a chamber of Mr. Dalton's dwelling. Very pleasant looked the apartment, with its thick Brussels carpet, its crimson damask curtains, screening its ample windows, its ruddy fire sending a genial glow through the room, rendering almost needless the wax candles that stood on the marble mantelpiece. Comfort, comfort; the word seemed written on the gay paper that covered the walls, and now smiled as the ruddy fire glanced on it, — on the mahogany bedstead with its hangings of lace, — on the large and softly cushioned arm-chairs, — on the chintz ottomans, the rocking-chairs and couch; convenience and elegance on the toilette-table, glittering with its array of scent-bottles, its massive mirror, its fairy-looking boxes; elegance in the harp, reclining on a stand at the farther end of the apartment, and in a small book-case pendent above it, crowded with volumes of light literature.

We before alluded to a group seated within. It consisted of Mr. Dalton's three daughters. They had just returned from a party at Government House, and dismissing their maids, sat down in the elder sister's chamber to comment on the proceedings of the evening, before retiring to rest.

"I feel very weary to-night," said Alice, the eldest sister who had thrown herself carelessly on a sofa; "those parties, after all, are very tiresome, do you not think so Lavinia?"

"No, indeed, the time passed very pleasantly away with me; but I really pitied you, with that self-conceited doctor for ever at your elbow, keeping up a continual chattering. He is a regular fop, elderly man though he be, and seems to imagine that all the young girls are in love with him."

"I claim exemption," said Alice laughing, "for he does not excite in me the least particle of admiration."

"Then why give him so much encouragement? Why allow him to accompany you wherever you go? Why laugh and chat continually with him?"