

LITERARY.

MY OWN HOME.

"My how come!" how soothing
The words to my ear,
What magic lurks in them
My spirit to cheer!

My own home, though humble
Thy rose-covered walls,
Thou art fairer and dearer
Than marble-built halls.

My own home, my own home,
My haven of rest,
My heart lieth to thee
As bird to its nest!

Grey and Gold.

CHAPTER IV.

Continued.

"So soon!" said the doctor
"The old lady then, is getting
tired of our quiet little nook.
And you—you like Scaurbeck,
I think, better than Cardham,
he added, with a spice of rail-
lery in his tone.

But there was none in Katie's
eyes, as she replied, "Better
than Cardham, Dr. Rayleigh?
I should think so. Going back
there is like going out of free-
dom into prison—out of sun-
shine into a dungeon. Though
I lived in the country when I
was at school, it was not like
this, and I had never seen
the sea. I shall never forget
it, I am sure, day and night,
til I will see it again. I shall
love Scaurbeck to the end of
my life. I have been so happy
here," said Katie, gazing sur-
rowfully over the glittering
sea, all dimpling in the Autumn
sunset.

Cecil Rayleigh looked at her
as she sat with clasped hands
and parted lips, gazing over
the water, and after a mo-
ment's pause, said gently,
"Could you love Scaurbeck
well enough to always live in
it, Miss Stewart? It is very
pleasant in the Summer, but
we consider it dull in the
Winter."

Without looking round, she
replied quickly, "Oh, Doctor
Rayleigh, my aunt loves dingy
old Cardham far too well ever
to leave it."

Cecil smiled and his blue
eyes sparkled mischievously.
"Is it then incumbent on
me to model their likes and
 dislikes on their aunts? You
have not answered my ques-
tion Miss Katie."

Katie's eyes fell beneath
the young man's glance, and
she continued, "Katie,—let me
call you so once, at least—
could you like Scaurbeck well
enough to live in it with me?"

Katie started; it was a sud-
den declaration, and an unex-
pected one, for in all her day
dreams of Cecil Rayleigh, while
realizing her own affection for
him, she had not thought it
possible that he, handsome,
clever, popular man, could
loop to care for the quiet in-
significant girl who had no
thing to bestow in return, ex-

cept that love which she be-
lieved he had only to sue for
from the noblest and the fair-
est, and must win. But no; it
was she he wanted, none other,
and with one glance at his ear-
nest face, in which she read
only truth, she covered her
face with her hands and said
not a word.

But it was not enough; in
that action Cecil read his an-
swer, and only after a few
minutes had passed did he
gently unloose the clinging
hands, and holding them both
fast in his own, with tender
force compel the blushing girl
to look up and confirm with
her own lips the answer he
had read in her eyes.

Grey days, where had they
vanished to? Golden days,
how suddenly had they dawned!
Katie was blinded as by
a sudden burst of sunshine.
Was not such happiness far too
great to be true?

But it was true; and, little
by little, Katie came to her-
self, and by degrees Katie was
able to listen to Cecil's out-
pouring of his thoughts and
feelings, his hopes and fears,
since the day when he first
met her in her aunt's sick
chamber; and so they talked
on while the sunset glowed and
faded over the waters, and the
gold and purple and crimson
paled into the soft evening
grey, and the moon came forth
in her brightness, warning
them that, even for lovers time
will not stand still, and that
Miss Rycroft would be grow-
ing uneasy at Katie's prolonged
absence.

The old lady was not half
so much astonished as Katie
had imagined, and, what was
better, she did not offer the
slightest objection to the new
state of affairs. During the
time Katie had been with her,
she had learned to love the
bright presence that cheered
her lonely home; but now her
better nature prevailed, and
she only begged that Katie
might be left to her for the
Winter.

"I am an old woman, Dr.
Rayleigh," she said, "and I may
be called hence at any time.
Leave me my companion till
the Winter is over, and then,
if I am still spared, I will glad-
ly give her to you in the
Spring, thankful that she will
have one to love and care for
her when I am gone."

So the matter remained
and another week found Ka-
tie and her aunt settled again
in the old home.

Katie was one when Doctor
Hawston paid his first visit,
but returning just before he
left, the old man called her to
him, and gravely regarding her
with a merry twinkle in his
eyes, while Katie's drooped, and
crimson rose over her cheeks,
he at length took pity on her,
and raising from his seat, hat
in hand, said, "I see my pre-
scription has been of great
service to you, Miss Katie, at
all events. Yes, Scaurbeck
roses are very pretty, quite as
much so as the lilies my
thievish young brother of the
medicine-shop seemed to ad-
mire so much. Ah, ah, Miss
Katie I have heard the news.
Mind, I am to give you away,
and Miss Rycroft and I will
open the ball together."

To be Continued.

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General Post Office, St. John's,
December 27th, 1881.

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