

coals to be paid for? The Darneleys were people very well off; they had made money, and now enjoyed many luxuries.

Gertrude, the merry girl, drew near the fire, cleared her voice, and read aloud :

" 'A lonely woman sat by a cheerless fire working away at her needle ; her room was scantily furnished, but remarkably clean, and she herself looked calm and patient, though sorrow was no stranger to her.' "

"I told you so," said Lily ; "'tis a miserable tale. I hate those kind of things."

"Order," said the mother, laughing ; and Gertrude continued reading :

" 'Presently, with a bright countenance she went to the window and watched. She was not naturally an inquisitive woman, prying into her neighbours' affairs ; but, of late, at this house you might have seen her with interest looking out. Yes, she said to herself, there is the kindly hand remembering the homely sparrows ; and see how naturally they expect their crumbs, waiting patiently, but never being forgotten. Are ye not of much more value than they? "

" 'Birdies' voices were singing grace ; but this desolate widow had no dinner placed before her, yet her faith failed not. She sat down again at her work ; thoughts would enter her mind : once her home had been so bright, not what is called handsomely furnished ; it was simple enough, but having a cultivated mind and delighting in all that is beautiful, it naturally happened that order reigned there, and better than all, pure love. Little pattering feet, too, had made music in that home ; but now, through sad reverses and death, the past was like a beautiful dream ; yet this woman dared to be happy, though she was passing under sharp discipline. God had taken her dear ones ; but she had no unpleasant reflections concerning the sainted dead, having been a devoted wife and mother, too much so, some people had said. Tears gathered and fell as she folded her work ; they were a great relief, and after a little struggle to overcome