



"THEY WERE IN THE OLD DINING-ROOM NOW."

to repose upon, was of the unseen

the cage-door had been flung open
ence, of course—was fluttering
aking the coveted hemp-seed

is full of ghosts, Aunt Mary," said the
are everywhere, and visible to both

nu. Friendly ghosts all of them; ghosts
stretches loving hands, and our tongues
elcome. Not spirits to be afraid of or
The place is full of them, as you say."
of your having to turn your back on this
me!"

as," interposed Mrs. Dimsdale. "It is
now; it is only the ghost of one, like its old
Some of them, thank God, are real flesh
still, making other houses worthy of the
ome, and others are only 'gone before.'
re walls and their surroundings, the rooms
niture, are no longer *home*. All that made
merit the name is gone long since."

ere the memories that cling round them."
God! I shall take those with me."

ghosts?"

they will come too. These old walls will

be pulled down and only piles
of bricks and displaced windows
and doors will be lying about
where the home was. I suppose
even ghosts must have 'a local
habitation,' so I quite expect
they will follow me; for the
new house is to be, as far as
possible, a miniature of the old
one. There will be the familiar
furniture—only less of it. One
chair in place of three will be
about the right proportion. As
to other things, it will be a case
for the 'survival of the fittest.'
I shall have a good, cosy house,
instead of a large one, with
rooms that made me feel a
mere speck in their midst.
Oh, Grant! there is no empti-
ness like the emptiness of a
place that used to be so full;
no silence so profound as that
which takes the place of
children's voices now far away,
or of the lips that death has
stilled. There is no loneliness
like that of a house where all
those who made it home have
departed, save the one."

Dr. Outram rose from his
seat as his aunt's voice ended in a whisper.

"Your words have lifted a great weight from my
mind, Aunt Mary. I was half afraid to ring for
admittance, though the bell gave out the old, im-
perious summons after I found courage enough to
touch it. I took the longest possible time to journey
along the drive, for I quite dreaded the meeting with
you and the talk that must follow. And now!"

"And now the talk is over you feel that a weight
is lifted from your mind. The thought of your old
aunt, tearful, troubled, nearly heart-broken at the
prospect before her, clogged your steps and made
you linger on your way. The knowledge that she
has risen to the occasion, and is striving to practise
what she preaches, by looking at the best side of
things, will speed you homeward with a light heart."

"It will, indeed. I am more glad than I can tell
you that the talk has been so different from what I
expected. I ought to be ashamed of myself for
having doubted that you would show a brave front
and a bright face, instead of sitting down to moan
over the inevitable. The removal will be a worry
and cause you much vexation of spirit, which cannot
be helped. For months, perhaps years to come, you
will be hunting for things that cannot be found
You will give them up for lost and buy new ones
This done, the old articles will come to light in the day