

to say that the carriage would be wanted the first thing in the morning to take her to Paddington.

“He will tell Hewitt, and Hewitt will tell Mrs. Dunham, and she will tell Mrs. Pyke, and so the ice will be broken,” she thought, triumphantly. “That will make it easier for me to just say casually to Mrs. Dunham, at bedtime, that I have made up my mind rather suddenly to go home and see Uncle Roberts for a couple of nights or so. I am very glad I have settled it. Now there can be no drawing back;” and the lonely lady, outwardly composed, but inwardly quaking, presently sat down to her solitary meal.

*(To be continued)*