

posed, as the only way to retain them, that Mr. Rose should kindly consent to speak for half an hour or more, until Miss Boyd arrives."

"Oh, I'm so glad; isn't it a happy thing that we came!" said Hattie, and she rubbed her hands for joy.

The old maid nervously fingered her waterproof cloak and cast a furtive glance toward the door. Mrs Somerville at once concluded that her elderly relative was meditating flight, so she came to the rescue by saying, "Aunt Fanny, I've just found out the reason why you don't want to hear Mr. Rose speak—you're actually afraid of being convinced!"

That was quite sufficient; the spinister leaned back proudly against her seat and disdained to make any reply.

In the meantime, Mr. Rose was inquiring good-naturedly of the officers around him as to the subject of his address.

"Total Abstinence," promptly replied Mr. Hassard.

It was intended to open the meeting without singing, but Mr. Rose would not hear of that.