

Family Reading.

The Little Bird.

A little bird with feathers brown Sat singing on a tree— The song was very soft and low, But sweet as it could be.

New Select Serial.

KATHLEEN.

THE STORY OF A HOME.

BY AGNES GIBBERNE.

CHAPTER I.

SHADOWS IN THE HOME.

'Cold day—don't leave the door open,' and with a parting shiver for the outside atmosphere, Dr. Ritchie stepped within a stove-warmed hall. Outer and inner portals were quickly closed, and he stood under the gaslight upon glistening grey and wide diamond shapes—a man of somewhat spare build, encased in great overcoat and woolen comforter. The damp mist and slush of a November afternoon rendered wraps a necessity.

in figure, seemingly about forty-five in age, with silver hairs glistening in the dark coils which crowned her head, and which were in their turn crowned by a light lace cap; she had taken her seat on a low chair beside the fire, having an open desk near, and a packet of letters clasped in her hands. The firelight scarcely managed to hide, even temporarily, the whiteness of her thin cheeks and blue-veined temples. Her eyes, full of tears, which dropped slowly one-by-one, remained fixed upon the glowing coals.

'I have been looking forward a great deal of late,' she said in tremulous tones. 'Ever since your last visit especially, I have wished to speak to you about the future—in connection with Kathleen.'

you may rally considerably. The calmer you can keep yourself—the less you are excited—the more you can avoid all this looking forward and planning for the future.'

Temperance. Total Abstinence and Common Sense. A man of sense and good feeling said: 'I know many reasons for avoiding drunkenness, but none for total abstinence. I know many reasons for not being a glutton, but none for starvation.'

stronger than they had in beginning their own lives—a tendency which, with a father's example and the presence of the tempter, may prove practically irresistible. So it often comes to pass that the worst effects of the habit are seen in the second generation.