



## II.

### Arthur's Welcome.

And fall the sounds of mirth,  
Sad on thy lonely heart,  
From all the hopes and charms of earth  
Untimely called to part."



HE shabby gig drove on through the whole village and along a piece of the road beyond it, until it turned in at the gates of the red brick house amongst the trees.

Arthur clambered down from the gig and stood on the door-steps. No loving face was there to greet him, no kiss of welcome awaited him.

He opened the hall door and went through the hall itself, until he reached the sitting-room, but there was no pleasure in his face, no quickness in his step, and he turned