

did it gie her for a while what was to come o' her. I could hear her, in the butt end o' the hoose, a'e mornin' mair earnest an' langer in her prayers than usual, though she never neglected them, puir body ; an' a' the early part o' that day she seemed to be no weel. She was aye up and down ; an' I could ance or twice hear her gaunting at the fireside ; but when I went ben to her, an' asked what was the matter wi' her, she said she was just in her ordinar'. She went oot for a wee ; an' what did I do, but gang to her amry, for I jaloused a' wasna right there ; an' oh ! it was a sair sight to see, neebors ; for there was neither a bit o' bread nor a grain of meal within its four corners, — naething but the sealed up graybeard wi' the whiskey that for twenty years an' mair she had been keepin' for her lyke-wake ; an', ye ken, it was oot o' the question to think that she would meddle wi' it. Weel did I scold her, when she cam' in, for being sae close-minded. I asked her what harm I had ever done to her, that she wad rather hae died than hae trusted her wants to me ? But though she said naething, I could see the tears in her e'e ; an' sae I stopped, an' we took a late breakfast thegither at my fireside.

“ She tauld me that mornin' that she weel kent she wouldna lang be a trouble to onybody. The day afore had been Sabbath ; an' every Sabbath morning, for the last ten years, her worthy neebor the elder, whom they had buried only four years afore, used to call on her, in the passing on his way to the kirk. ‘ Come awa, Elspat,’ he would say ; an' she used to be aye decent an' ready, for she liked his conversation ; an' they aye gaed thegither to the kirk. She had been contracted, when a young lass, to a brither o' the elder's, a stout, handsome lad ; but he had been ca'ed suddenly awa atween the contract an' the marriage, an' Elspat, though she had afterwards mony a gude