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A GLIMPSE OF THE WORLD	2 vols.
THE JOURNAL OF A HOME LIFE	2 vols.



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AFTER LIFE.

(SEQUEL TO "THE JOURNAL OF A HOME LIFE.")

CHAPTER I.

June 16. — Ina came yesterday; Miss Anson — Charlotte Anson — with her. I had a letter in the morning telling me that so it was to be, but Mrs. Penrhyn has kept me till the last moment in ignorance as to how she intended to arrange the journey. Ina is looking tired, and is not quite in good spirits; I try to attribute it a little to the change which she must feel has taken place in her intercourse with Marietta. It is absurd to say that marriage makes no difference in the relations of family and friendship. It must make a difference, the greatest — it was intended to do so. That which has been first must from thenceforth be second, and the alteration cannot but be painful. I feel it to a certain degree myself. I am not, in every respect, what I was to Marietta, for she has another to advise her. But there was no romance in our affection, — that was reserved for Ina, and it is she therefore who has lost the most.

I question, though, whether this is really the cause

of her bad spirits. I have watched her carefully, and do not see that there is anything like impatience at Marietta's very evident devotion to her husband. Ina seems to take it as a matter of course; and though this is sensible, it is not quite natural. I should be better pleased if she cared more about it. We have talked a good deal about Arling, and the festivities, and the Worthingtons — as Ina will call them — and she appears quite open about them, and speaks of Lord Hopeton as a weak young man, who has been spoilt by home indulgence. I cannot imagine that she cares in the least for him; but I suspect there must be some idea of his caring for her, for she betrays unconsciously, in the course of conversation, how much he was at Arling, and tells me that Lady Worthington asked her to spend a few days at the Castle, and that she should have gone but for the recall home.

"What did your grandmamma say to your refusing the invitation?" I asked.

"I never told her that it had been given," was Ina's reply. "I did not want to have a fight about it, and I knew I ought to come home."

She said this hurriedly, and turning away, began to talk about something else. I should not notice these trifles in Agnes or Esther, but with Ina any appearance of reserve unconsciously makes me uneasy, because I never know what may be hidden beneath.

Charlie and Hugh come to-morrow, then we shall be all together. I have not had time yet to talk to Mr. Neville about Charlie; in fact, I don't think I