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SEALED ORDERS.

BY
ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS,
AUTHOR OF "THE GATES AJAR," "THE STORY OF AVIS,"
ETC., ETC.



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DEDICATION.



TO — —.

HOLD them, Dear, these gathered pages,
 Fugitives reclaimed and ordered
 Faltering on a doubtful errand,
 Seeking to renew old friendships —
 Saddest of all human venture,
 Gladdest of all human welcome.
 Hold us ; hold the sent and sender;
 Touch us, for your hands are gentle.
 When the eager lip is silent,
 When the message is unspoken
 That the heart of health would render,
 And the years wait for their meaning,
 And the hands of life are folded;
 Turn we to the tried affections,
 To the faithful of the faithful
 That we number counting golden
 Rings upon the bridal finger
 Of the soul
 Turn we to the truest loving,
 And the tenderest reproving,
 And the cheerfulest inspiring,
 And the loyalest upholding
 That the faith of friend has offered
 To the tale or to the teller;
 Turn we, Dear, to *you* !

Hold us, for your heart is gentle.

NOTE.

MANY of these stories are reprinted from Harper's Monthly, the New York Independent, Scribner's Monthly, and the Atlantic Monthly.

E. S. P.

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