

OLD LADY MARY.

Uniform with this volume,

A LITTLE PILGRIM.

ROBERTS BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS.

How quietly A

OLD LADY MARY.

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A Story of the Seen and the Unseen.



BOSTON:
ROBERTS BROTHERS.

1884.

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University Press:
JOHN WILSON AND SON, CAMBRIDGE.

OLD LADY MARY.

A STORY OF THE SEEN AND THE UNSEEN.

I.

SHE was very old, and therefore it was very hard for her to make up her mind to die.

I am aware that this is not at all the general view, but that it is believed, as old age must be near death, that it prepares the soul for that inevitable event. It is not so, however, in many cases. In youth we are still so near the unseen out of which we came, that death is rather pathetic than tragic, — a thing that touches all hearts, but to which, in many cases, the young hero accommodates himself sweetly and courageously. And amid the storms and burdens of middle life there are many times when we would fain push open the door that stands ajar, and behind which there is ease for all our pains, or at least rest, if nothing more. But age, which