

SEALED ORDERS.

BY

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ETC., ETC.



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DEDICATION.

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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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