

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1872.

And lived among the flowers in the garden, & rejoiced to be in the fields. I was now constantly at home with Nelly, she had delighted to be with me in the store, but now we could wander where we would, and returning from labor Nelly's cheery voice and smiling face always met us at the gate or at the door. Still her mother who watched more closely than any other saw in a couple of years Nelly was not what she seemed to be. She often complained after being out of headache and general weariness, she took music lessons during this period and advanced rapidly and was now a very good player, giving her time up almost entirely to those "Scottish songs and melodies" of which I am so fond. 1872 dawned upon us the spring and early summer were pleasant and agreeable. Midsummer brought continual rain and she got but little out of the house. Of course she was a continual pleasure in it but became sorer and graver, after harvest she felt a general lassitude at times which she would often jerk up and call laziness, but was sleepless at night and as she said herself long lying in the morning did not seem to satisfy. November came and still Nelly did not complain but began to have long private talks with her mother and death often became the subject of their conversation. She declared she wished to die before either of us, but "she did not blame her" Pa & Ma would stop it they would be so kind. But the idea of us dying before her seemed unbearable, Mother had been weak all the previous year and Nelly had been her constant attendant, in fact was the companion who never failed to sing or read for her at any & all times.