## LIFE'S LAST HOURS; OR, THE FINAL TESTIMONY

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Life's last hours; or, The final testimony by Various

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### VARIOUS

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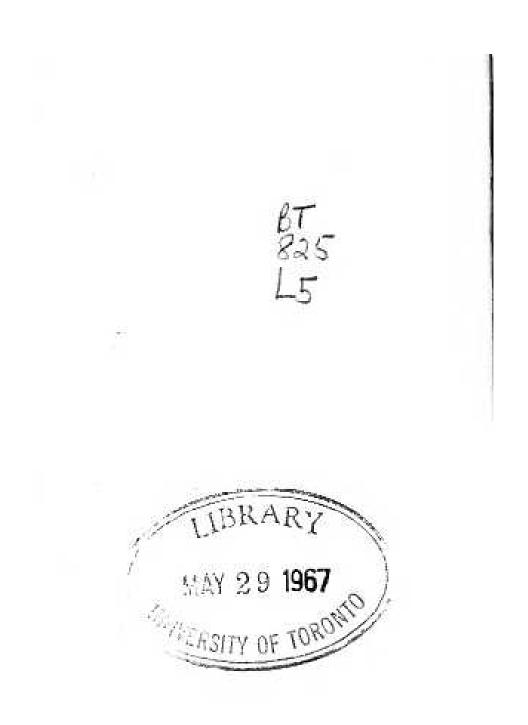
OR,

### THE FINAL TESTIMONY.

" How shall I die? Shall death's harsh yoke Subdow me by a single stroke? Or shall my fainting frame sustain The tedious languishing of pain, Sinking in weariness away, Slowly and sadly, day by day?"

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#### THE FINAL TESTIMONY.

#### CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

" Come hither !- Death is in the world ! "

The mention of a death-bed calls up to every mind a familiar train of interesting, yet painful imagery. Who has not felt the stroke, to avert which man's best remedies are vain? Who cannot recall the shifting scenes of a last sickness? The alarm and confusion of the first shock? the separated apartment and watchful attendants? the frequent appearance of the medical visitor? the daily wasting form? the fading away of familiar traits into unearthly ones? the faltering of the once echoing voice? And then, the putting in, by corruption, of its claims before they are due; the restlessness and anguish, amidst which the spirit breaks up its companionship with the body; the last look—