



of damages sustained in the various
quarters of the place. At one time the
housekeeper brought him intelligence of
a chimney blown down, and a desper-
ate leak springing in the roof over the
picture gallery, which threatened to
obliterate a whole generation of his an-
cestors. Then the steward came in
with a doleful story of the mischief done
in the woodlands; while the gamekeeper
bemoaned the loss of one of the finest
bucks, whose carcass was seen floating
along the swift current of the river.
When the squire spread forth he was accosted
~~by the butler, who told him that the~~
~~before the door by the old paralytic~~
gardener, ~~came to the door~~ with a face
full of trouble, ^{reporting} ~~lamenting~~ as I supposed,
the destruction of his flower beds and
the destruction of his wall fruit. I remarked
however, that his intelligence caused a
peculiar expression of concern not only
with the squire and Master Temin, but
with the fair Julia and Lady Dillycraft,
who happened to be present. From a few
words which reached my ear, I found

[Faint, illegible handwriting throughout the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

One should be well aware of the humours
of the good genius and his household, to
understand the general concern expressed
at this disaster. It was quite a public
calamity in this rural empire, and
all seemed to feel for the poor rooks as
for fellow citizens in distress.

The ground had been strewn with the
callow young, which were now cherished
on the aprons and bosoms of the house-
maids. ~~and I was pleased with this~~
~~touch of nature in the baggage;~~
~~natural exhibition of female sympathy~~
~~with baggage;~~ this female sympathy
in the sufferings of the offspring and
the maternal anxiety of the parent birds.



It was moving too to witness the general
agitation and distress that seemed to
prevail throughout the feathered community.
The common cause that was made of it;
and the incessant hawking and fluttering
and lamenting that took place in
the whole rookery. There is a chord
of sympathy that runs through the
whole feathered race, as to any mis-
fortunes of the young: and the cries

Drachm

among these airy householders; their nests being all filled with young, who were in danger of being tumbled out of their tree rocked cradles. Indeed the robins themselves seemed to have hard work to maintain a foothold; some kept hovering and cawing in the air; or if they ventured to alight, they had to hold fast, flap their wings and spread their tails, and thus remain he-sawing on the topmost twigs.

In the course of the night, however, an awful calamity had ~~happened~~ taken place in this most sage and politic community. ~~A large branch~~ There was ~~a~~ a great tree, the tallest in the grove, which seemed to have been the kind of court end of the Metropolis, and crowded with the residences of many of those whom Master Simon considered the nobility and gentry. A decayed limb of this tree had given way with the violence of the storm, and had come down with all its usual ~~habitations~~ air castles. ✨ SHR

very little of the original text is visible. The page appears to be a blank or heavily faded document. There are some faint, illegible markings and a few small dark spots scattered across the surface.