

**AUTUMN GATHERINGS. MABEL
ASHTON: A TALE OF THE
CRIMEAN WAR. AND THE
RECLUSE OF RUTHERFORD
MANOR**

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Autumn Gatherings. Mabel Ashton: A Tale of the Crimean War. And the Recluse of Rutherford Manor by Mrs. R. H. Allnatt

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MRS. R. H. ALLNATT

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Autumn Gatherings.

MABEL ASHTON:

A Tale of the Crimean War.

AND THE

RECLUSE OF RUTHERFORD
MANOR.

BY

MRS. R. H. ALLNATT,

AUTHOR OF "MAMA'S BIOGRAPHIES FROM THE CHURCH
SERVICE CALENDAR," ETC.

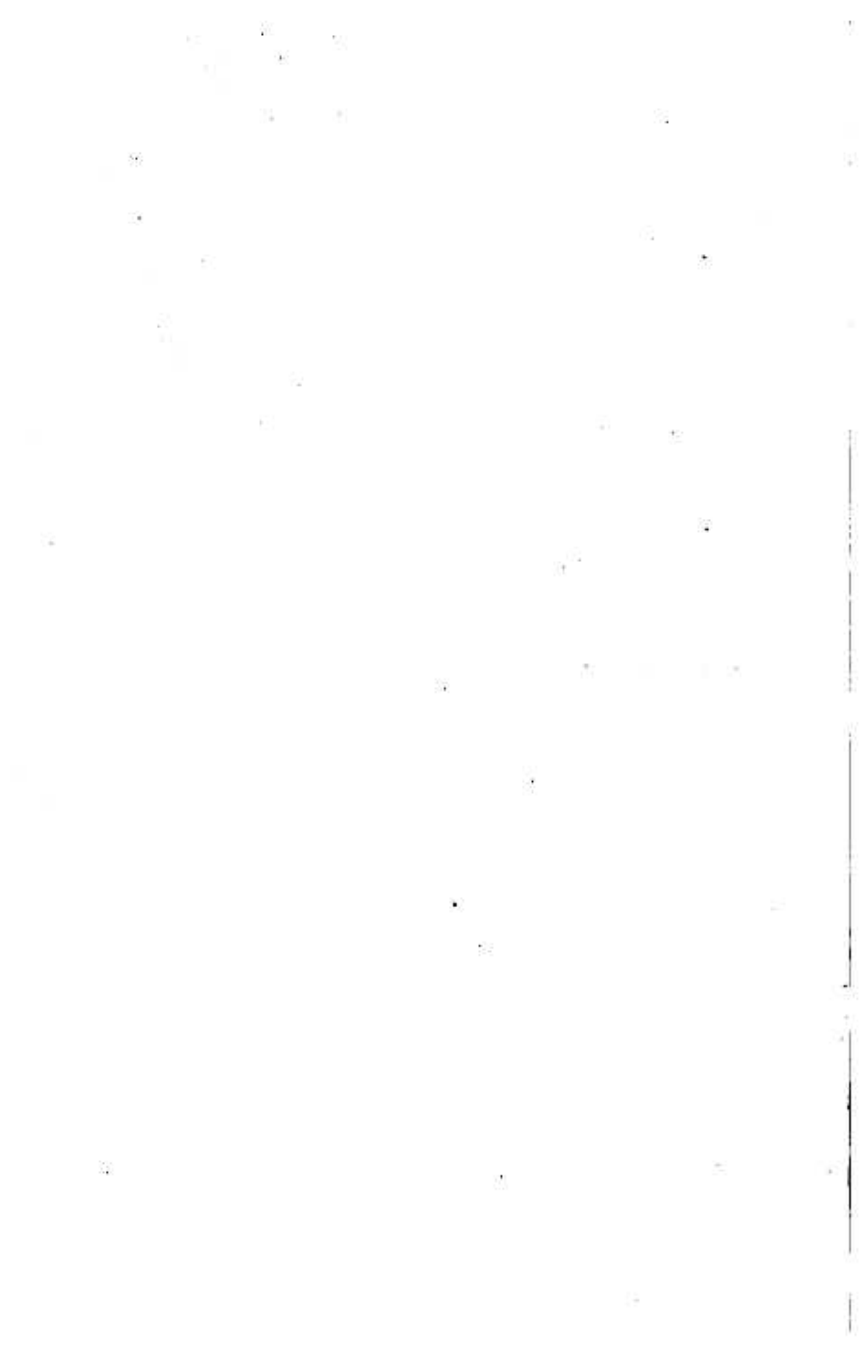


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1879.

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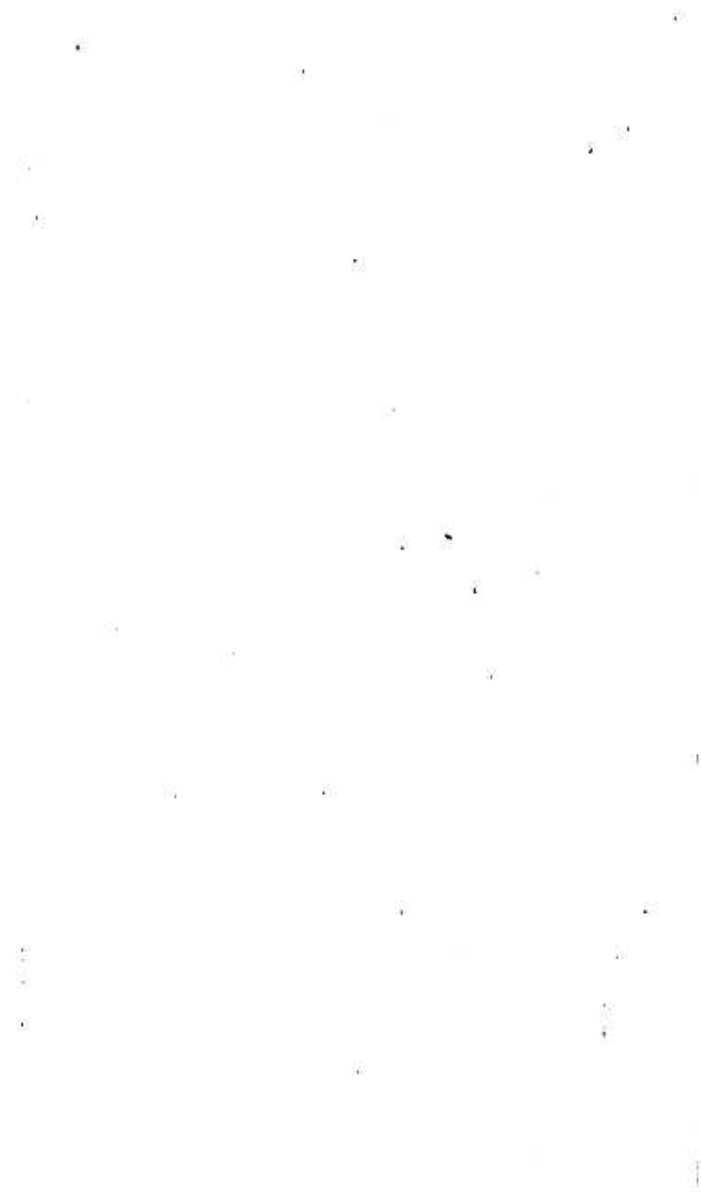


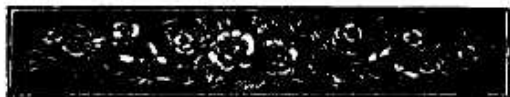
TO
SIR GEORGE ROSE SARTORIUS, K.C.B.,
ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET,
MY DEAR OLD FRIEND,
AN UPRIGHT MAN, GALLANT OFFICER,
PLEASANT COMPANION, KIND NEIGHBOUR,
IN RECOGNITION OF MUCH FRIENDLY INTERCOURSE,
I, WITH AFFECTIONATE REGARD,

Devicis these Pages.

ELIZABETH ("BESSIE") R. H. ALLNATT.

"THE FIRS," FRANT, SUSSEX.
1879.






MABEL ASHTON:
A TALE OF THE CRIMEAN WAR.

"Ah! County Guy, the hour is nigh,
The sun has left the lee,
The orange flower perfumes the bower,
The breeze is on the sea;
The lark, his lay who thrilled all day,
Sits hushed, his partner nigh;
Breeze, bird, and flower confess the hour,
But where is County Guy?"

WALTER SCOTT.

"On foreign soil to lay thy head,
A foreign foot thy grave to tread;
Foreign lands, and far-off sea,
Lie between thy home and thee."

OLD SONG.

"H! if this is not famous, it just comes *à propos*, and fits in as I wanted. Now, Trafford, you can't refuse."

The gentleman thus addressed looked up

inquiringly at his friend, who was rapidly glancing over the contents of a letter.

These two young men are friends and brother officers, and they are now breakfasting in the private room of one of them, in the Barracks in London, at the close of summer.

Before we proceed any farther we will describe them. They were very opposite in appearance, temperament, and disposition. The speaker, Charley Sebright, was the younger by two years, and he looked up to Guy Trafford with most supreme admiration, combined with an enthusiastic friendship. Charley was a merry, gay young fellow; fair-haired, boyish-looking, with bright blue eyes, frank and open in his manner, always up to any fun and excitement, and very popular with his brother officers. He was not very brilliant in intellect, but his ingenuous, truthful nature made him a special favourite with Captain Trafford.

Guy Trafford was the opposite to his friend in all but his truthfulness. He was honest and upright in an eminent degree; a man of strong feelings, of great depth of character, possessing a warm heart under some reticence of manner, refined and cultivated in taste.