

# **PASTIME STORIES**

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Pastime stories by Thomas Nelson Page

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**THOMAS NELSON PAGE**

**PASTIME  
STORIES**



# PASTIME STORIES

BY

THOMAS NELSON PAGE

AUTHOR OF

"IN OLE VIRGINIA" "ELSKET, AND OTHER STORIES"  
"ON NEWFOUND RIVER" "AMONG THE CAMPS"  
"TWO LITTLE CONFEDERATES" ETC.

*ILLUSTRATED BY A. E. FROST*



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P37  
1842  
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TO  
ALL GOOD STORY-TELLERS  
WHO HAVE SWEETENED LIFE  
WITH THEIR HUMOR

438921





## P R E F A C E

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It used to be the custom for a writer on coming before the public to address a word to the "gentle reader," a custom which had this double advantage: that the author had his "word," and the reader, on his side, was not obliged to hear it. I wish now to avail myself of this old custom, and my gentle readers, if such there shall be, may take advantage of their privilege also. I will simply say that no one will be as sensible of the demerits of these stories as I am myself. So, my "gentle reader," we agree on that point at least. If you ask me why, then, I wrote them, I will say truthfully, because I was asked and chose to do so. Then, why did I publish them? Because I found a publisher.

There are some good stories in the lot, old stories which have survived for generations—one, I am satisfied, for at least a century—and if they do not read well, it is because I have marred them in the telling. This is as much my misfortune as yours; so do not complain, when I have tried to entertain you. The

only persons who have that right are my friends, Major J. Horace Lacy, Connelly F. Trigg, Polk Miller, Henry W. Hobson, William F. Gordon, Jr., and a few others, who told me stories too good to be lost, whether I have been able to preserve them or not.

I must make my acknowledgments to "Porte Crayon" for an incident in "Rachel's Lovers;" and if, "gentle reader," I can excite your curiosity so far as to make you go back to that early and delightful chronicle of old Virginia life, you will owe me a debt of gratitude which will offset all my deficiencies.

THOS. NELSON PAGE.

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