

**IN RUSSET MANTLE  
CLAD: SCENES  
OF RURAL LIFE**

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In russet mantle clad: scenes of rural life by George Morley

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**GEORGE MORLEY**

**IN RUSSET MANTLE  
CLAD: SCENES  
OF RURAL LIFE**



In Russet  
Mantle Clad



# In Russet Mantle Clad

Scenes of Rural Life

BY

GEORGE MORLEY

AUTHOR OF

'LEAFY WARWICKSHIRE,' 'IN RUSTIC LIVELY,' 'SWEET AUDREY,' ETC.

*DEDICATED BY SPECIAL PERMISSION TO*

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

**The Countess of Warwick**

*With Illustrations taken specially for this Work*

LONDON

SKEFFINGTON & SON, 163 PICCADILLY

Publishers to H.M. The Queen and to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

1897

' Under the greenwood tree,  
Who loves to lie with me,  
And turn his merry note  
Unto the sweet bird's throat,  
Come hither, come hither, come hither ;  
Here shall we see  
No enemy,  
But winter and rough weather.'

*As You Like It (ACT II., SCENE V.)*



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5059  
M43i

*DEDICATION*

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TO

**Frances Evelyn Greville,**

COUNTESS OF WARWICK,

IN TOKEN OF HER KINDLY FRIENDSHIP,

THESE SCENES OF IDYLLIC LIFE IN WARWICKSHIRE—

THE WORK OF MY HAND WITH MY HEART IN IT

—ARE, BY HER SPECIAL PERMISSION,

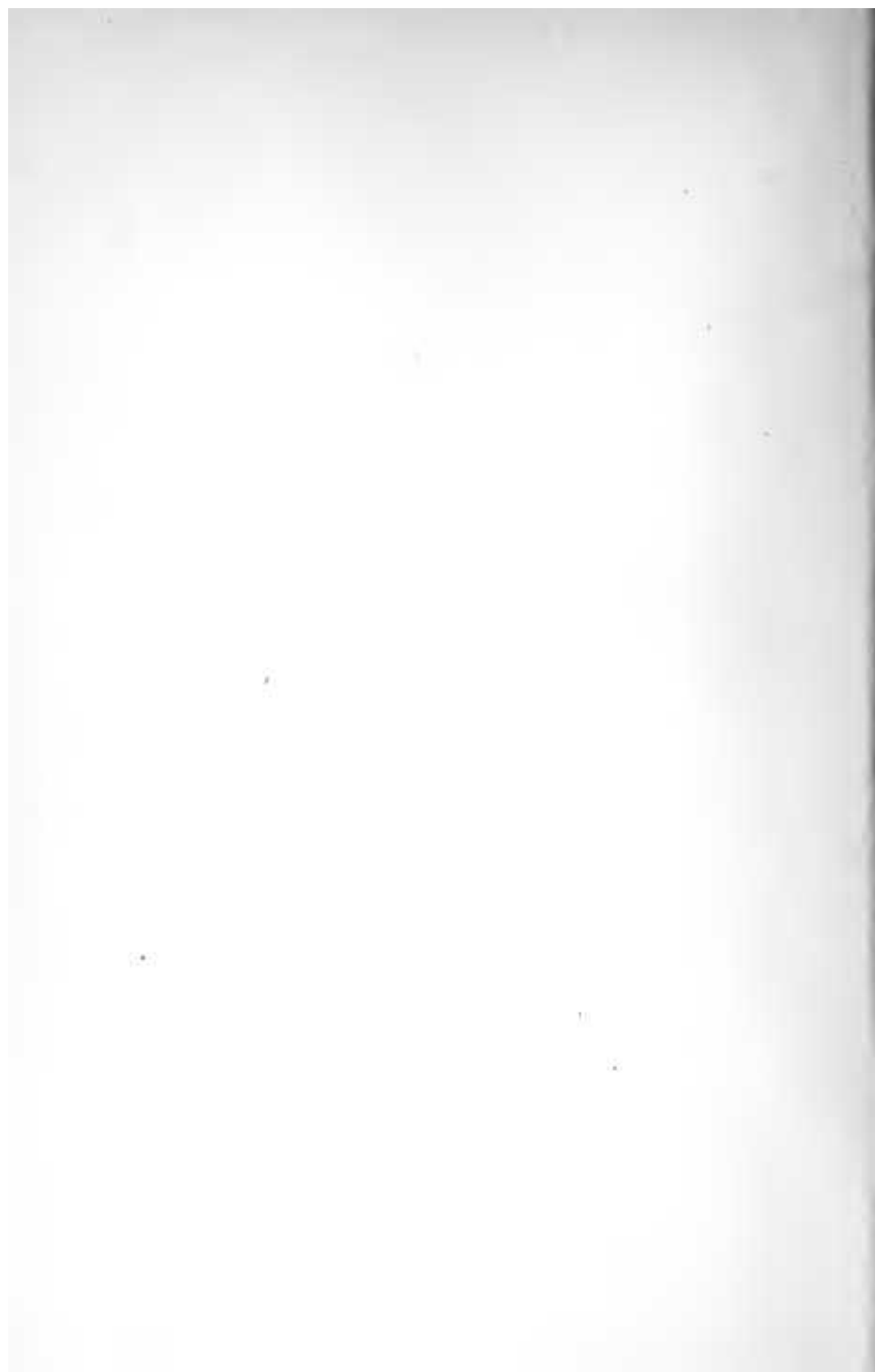
VERY GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED.

GEORGE MORLEY

'Howe'er it be it seems to me,  
'Tis only noble to be good;  
Kind hearts are more than coronets,  
And simple faith than Norman blood.'

*Tennyson.*

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## PREFACE

SO beautiful a pastoral county as Warwickshire, the very heart of rural England, affords charming pictures for the pen of the descriptive writer and the pencil of the artist, and the wonder is that more writers and painters have not gone to the sweet and peaceful nooks of nature to be found there in such abundance. The scenes of rural life comprised in this volume are written by a native who knows every mead, stream, hill, cottage, farmhouse, manor, lane and hedgerow of the ground traversed, and the writing of them has been to him a labour of love. The sketch entitled 'Under the Chestnut Tree' describes the unique and hitherto unrecorded initial meeting of Warwickshire peasants under the historical chestnut