

**AIMS AND ENDS,
A NOVEL, VOL. II**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649042302

Aims and Ends, a Novel, Vol. II by C. C. G.

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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A NOVEL.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

By C. C. G.

VOL. II.

London:

T. CAUTLEY NEWBY, PUBLISHER,
80, WELBECK STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE.
1862.

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AIMS AND ENDS.

CHAPTER I.

" Brilliant hopes, all woven in gorgeous tissues,
Flaunting gaily, in the golden light,
Large desires with most uncertain issues."

MIDSUMMER had come full of its usual witcheries, the trees being in their grandest foliage, and the air filled with the fragrance of summer flowers, and the sweet notes of its numerous songsters, when the important morning of the wedding arrived. There had been rain in the night which refreshed the air, but it had left its traces in some remaining

clouds, which combated with the rising sun, causing some apprehension to the early wakers that morning ; however, at length his majesty arose in full splendour from his bed of cloud, and joyfully shone on the pretty village of Norrington, and by an early hour the inmates of Oak Cottage were astir in order to put the finishing touches to the preparations for the wedding festivities.

I hope our readers will not be disappointed in finding no catalogue of Eleanor's *trousseau*, which had been prepared in London, without much trouble on the part of the bride herself, and which was already packed for the journey, as that semi-barbarous custom of making a display of the wardrobe had been rejected with determination, although Mrs. Ferne seemed to lament that so many splendid dresses, and so much exquisite lace should be hidden from view, more especially as her friends and acquaintance around Norrington would have but little chance in the future of seeing them on Lady Thornbury, and those rare and

costly jewels too—such a pity; would not Eleanor allow these, at all events, to be placed on a table in the corner of the drawing-room for inspection? but all her efforts were vain, as Lord Thornbury was a man too much accustomed to live in the atmosphere of diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, to wish to see his valuable gifts to his bride elect arranged as if in a jeweller's shop—to be looked at, admired, and perhaps coveted.

This custom of making an exhibition of the bridal *trousseau* always seems to me quite unworthy of the dignity of marriage, and to be a relic of less civilized times, or, at all events, a revival of them.

Lord Thornbury and Sir Andrew Bolton had taken up their quarters at the Dolphin Hotel, in Ashwell, on the previous evening, and Augusta Lennox had been spending the last week with her friend, in readiness for the eventful day.

Arabella Bolton had promised to act her