

CITY BALLADS

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City ballads by Will Carleton

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WILL CARLETON

CITY BALLADS

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"THESE ARE THE SPIRES THAT WERE GLEAMING."

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BY

WILL CARLETON

AUTHOR OF "FARM BALLADS" "FARM LEGENDS" "FARM FESTIVALS"
"YOUNG FOLKS' CENTENNIAL RHYMES" ETC.

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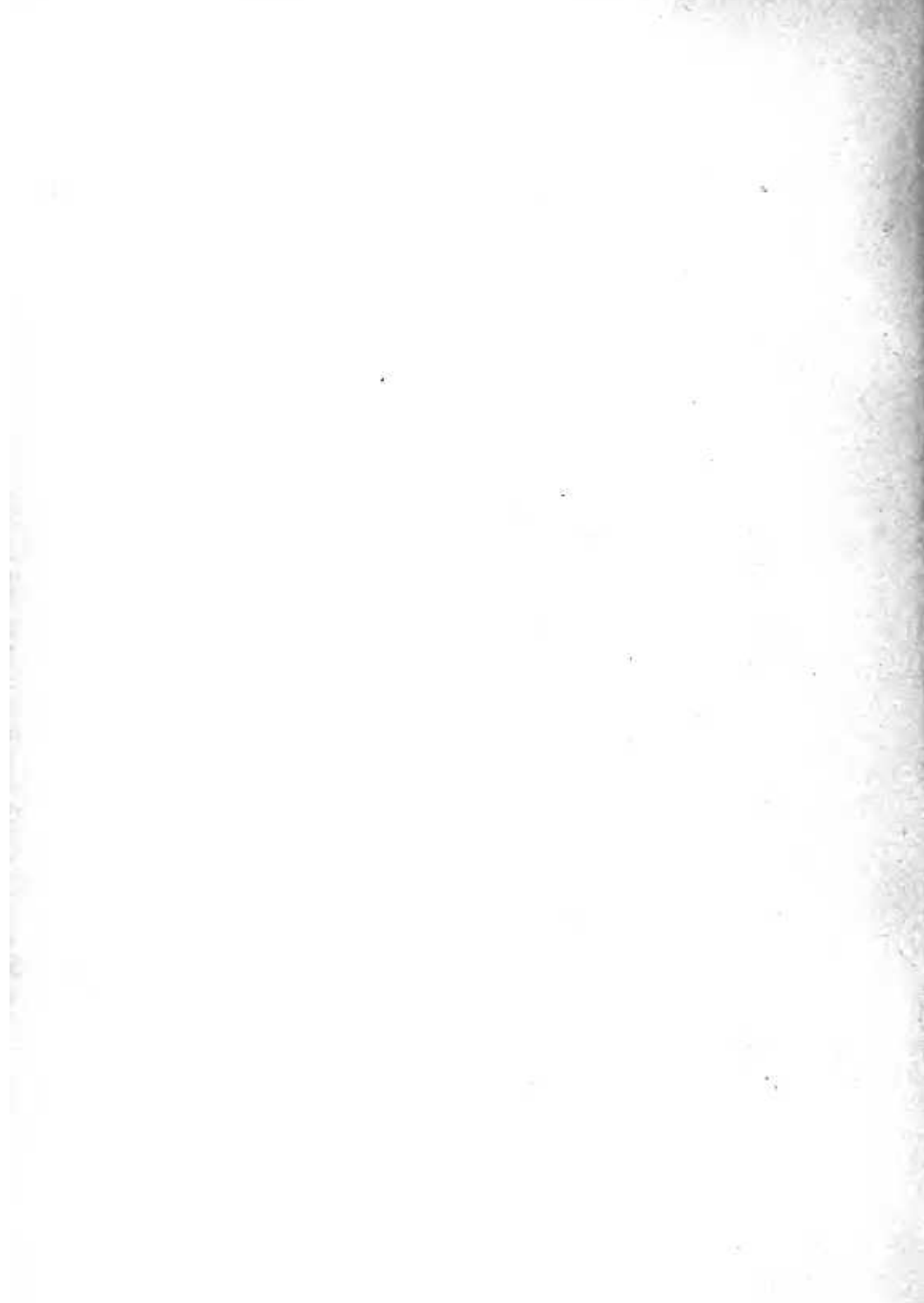
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TO
ADÓRA
FRIEND, COMRADE, LOVER, WIFE





PREFACE.

WHEN city people go among forests and hills, they drink in the fresh air and weird scenery of rural surroundings, with much more rapturous enjoyment, and appreciation, than do the life-long residents they find there.

For the same reason, the great drama of metropolitan existence falls most forcibly upon those just from the clear streams and green meadows of the country. Their impressions then are deeper, and their feelings more intense than if they were city born and bred.

With the latter fact in view, this book is an effort to reproduce some of the effects of city scenes and character upon the intellect and imagination of two people from the country :

First, a young student, who has travelled the well-beaten roads of a college course, but is just entering real life, and now for the first time walks the paved and palace-bordered streets of which he has heard and read so much

Second, an old farmer, with very little "book-learning," but a clear brain, a warm heart, and independent judgment, and a habit of philosophizing upon everything he sees, which habit he brings to the city, and applies to the strange facts he witnesses.

These, with certain incidental thoughts and characters encountered and discussed, constitute the present work. It will be found, as intended, sketchy and suggestive rather than elaborate and complete. Note-books and diaries are designed, not so much for the history of a career or an event, as a light to the memory, a stimulus to the imagination, and a help to the heart.