

**THE PARSONAGE PORCH:
SEVEN STORIES FROM A
CLERGYMAN'S NOTE-
BOOK**

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The Parsonage Porch: Seven Stories from a Clergyman's Note-Book by Bradley Gilman

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Seven Stories from a Clergyman's
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BY
BRADLEY GILMAN.

"Depend upon it, you would gain unspeakably if you would learn with me to see some of the poetry and the pathos, the tragedy and the comedy, lying in the experience of a human soul that looks out through dull gray eyes, and that speaks in a voice of quite ordinary tones." — GEORGE ELIOT.

L.C.

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To my friends
IN THE
PARISHES OF BELMONT, CONCORD, AND SPRINGFIELD,
TO YOUNG AND OLD, WHOSE LIVES I
HAVE SHARED, IN SUNSHINE AND
IN SHADOW,
I DEDICATE THIS LITTLE BOOK.

AS BETWEEN FRIENDS.

The observant minister, who studies himself candidly and his people sympathetically, passes through many experiences which do not find a fitting channel of expression in the pulpit. They are leaves from the wonderful book of human nature, but they are not susceptible of homiletical treatment; and they lend themselves invitingly and often almost irresistibly to treatment in fiction. This is the explanation of the stories here presented. Like the human life with which they deal, they are set in various keys, grave and gay.

If you ask, "Are they true? Did they really happen?" I reply that they did not really happen, but they are true; they are not a record of facts, and you may look through them in vain, seeking familiar names and places; but whether seen in the trustful eyes of a dog, as was one, or suggested by a quaint show-window, as was