

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
OF AN ELDERLY  
WOMAN**

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Autobiography of an Elderly Woman by Mary Heaton Vorse

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**MARY HEATON VORSE**

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*"As soon as you feel too old to do a thing,  
do it." — Margaret Deland.*



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ELDERLY WOMAN**



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*Harvard University*

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# AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN ELDERLY WOMAN

## CHAPTER I

### THE SHADOW OF AGE

As I look back over my life, it divides itself into four parts. First come all the years before I married, and as I look back on my childhood and my short girlhood, it seems to me as though I were remembering the life of some other woman, for during these many years I know that I have changed several times from one person to another, and the world about me has had time to change also. All that early part swims in a fog, with here and there events popping out of the mist, more distinct than those a week past, — often meaningless and

## AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF

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trivial events these; I cannot tell by what caprice memory has elected to keep them so clear. Lately I find myself returning to certain opinions and prejudices of my girlhood, that I had long forgotten. Time, after all, has not obliterated them, nor have I walked away from them. It is rather as though I had gone in a circle, and as I come to the completion of it I find my old thoughts and opinions, changed and grown older, waiting for me.

With my marriage begins the part of my life that seems real to me, — it is as if I had dreamed all that went before. I loved the time when my children were little, and I have often wished that I could put them and myself back in the nursery again. I pity the women whose children come too late for them