

**LOVE OF
COMRADES:
A ROMANCE**

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Love of Comrades: A Romance by Frank Mathew

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FRANK MATHEW

**LOVE OF
COMRADES:
A ROMANCE**

Love of Comrades

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

The Wood of the Brambles
Defender of the Faith
One Queen Triumphant
A Child in the Temple
The Spanish Wine

JOHN LANE, THE BODLEY HEAD
LONDON AND NEW YORK

Love of Comrades

A ROMANCE

BY

Frank Mathew

*"On a fair morning, as I came by the way,
Met I with a merry maid in the merry month of May."*

OF THE
PUBLIC
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John Lane: The Bodley Head

London and New York

1900

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TO NEW YORK
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Love of Comrades

CHAPTER I

"PEGGIE OF THE SONGS"

DRESSED as a man, I rode into the forest. It was the time of the beginning of leaves. In the cool grass the slender flowers were alert. Overhead the birds sang to one another, "Come, look at little Margery Talbot, wearing big boots and a long sword at her side." I did not think of the forest or the mountains beyond it or that dangerous Castle, for my thoughts were at a gabled and quiet house in a garden. There a crippled old man stood watching me in a porch under ivy; but I had not the heart to look back at him.

My father, Sir Pertinax Talbot, is crippled and grim. As long as I can remember, he