

**AN ENTHUSIAST. IN
THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. III**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649508044

An Enthusiast. In Three Volumes. Vol. III by Caroline Fothergill

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CAROLINE FOTHERGILL

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THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. III**

AN ENTHUSIAST.

VOL. III.

*Hellen daro
with love from
C. F.*

AN ENTHUSIAST.

BY

CAROLINE FOTHERGILL,

AUTHOR OF

"PUT TO THE PROOF," "THE SECOND BEST," "FOES OF A HOUSEHOLD."

"'Tis an awkward thing to play with souls."

R. BROWNING.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

London:

WARD AND DOWNEY,

12, YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1887.

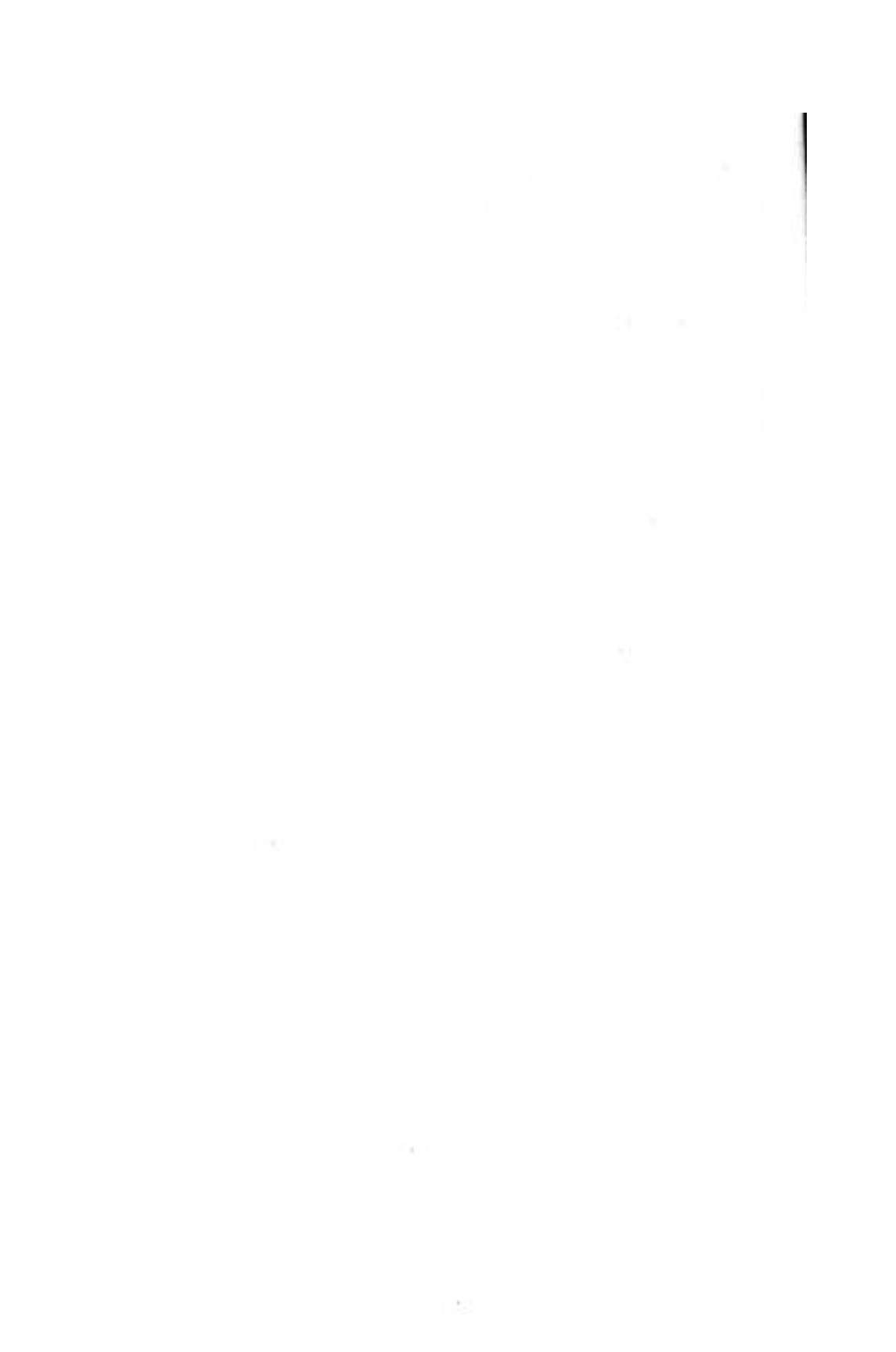
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BOOK III.

TWO YEARS.

"Endurance is the crowning quality,
And patience all the passion of great hearts."
J. R. LOWELL.



AN ENTHUSIAST.

CHAPTER I.

"Read thou this challenge."

It was May of the following year when the Flemings began to think of going back to England, and at the end they made up their minds rather suddenly. Cuthbert had wanted to go some time before, but Maryla had been unwilling to face a possibility of east winds for her husband. All they had gained by wintering abroad, had been more sunshine and open-air exercise for Cuthbert; he was no stronger than when they left home. With-

out telling any of their friends, they had consulted more than one doctor famed for his skill in Cuthbert's particular complaint, and they had visited many places where the air is supposed to work miracles even in cases which have been given up as hopeless; but they brought away no comfort. The doctors had examined Cuthbert and then shaken their heads and said it was too late to do anything; the disease must have its way. It would be better to go home and there await the end. The places which were crowded with consumptive people going through "cures," worked no miracle in Cuthbert's favour, and the sight of all these men and women gathered together to wage war with death affected him so painfully that Maryla was glad to get him away.

Early in the spring, while they were still abroad, Maryla's new novel and