

NETTIE GAY

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Nettie Gay by H. L. C.

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H. L. C.

NETTIE GAY



ETTIE GAY.

BY

H. L. C.

BOSTON:
BENTON SMITH, AGENT,
37 CORNHILL,
1867.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1864, by
TOMPKINS & COMPANY,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of
Massachusetts.

P R E F A C E .

ALONE and a stranger, this little book wings its way to the hearts of children. May He who guides a sparrow guard its mission and bless it. Simple and lowly as its pretensions are, may it, yet, be received as it was sent forth—in the spirit of love; and may the characters of blessed children be to some extent strengthened, for the experiences of their young lives, by reading the story of NETTIE GAY.

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NETTIE GAY.

CHAPTER I.

NETTIE'S HOME.

THE homestead of Joseph Gay was prettily located among the New Hampshire hills. About one mile therefrom was a little village with two white churches fronting its open square.

Mr. Gay's dwelling was spacious, and so long that it was sometimes called "The League." Far to the north rose the White Hills, and to the west the crowns of the Green Mountains.

East of the homestead stood Gay Ledge, a great, granite mass, sparsely covered with vegetation; southward were the meadow lands, encircling a lilly pond; northward the rich pastures, and westward a dense forest, orchard, and garden.

The house stood in the centre of a beautiful lawn, which sloped gently to the road in front. On the