THE FREEDOM OF THE FIELDS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649588077

The Freedom of the Fields by Charles C. Abbott

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CHARLES C. ABBOTT

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J.B.LIPPINCOTT CO. PHILADELPHIA 1898 COPVAIGHT, 1897, ST J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY.

RAMBLES, YEARS AGO, ABOUT CAMBRIDGE, CONCORD, AND CAPE COD, AND OTHERS, WITH TWE SAME COMPANION, OVER THE HOME MEADOWS, AND UNDER THE OLD GAES ALONG THE HILLSIDE, ARE SO OPTEN RECALLED AND ALWAYS WITH SUCH PLEASURE, THAT I CAMROT DO OTHERWISE, AND SE AT PRACE WITH MYSELF, TRAM

dedicate TO WALTER FAXON,

CAMBRIDGE, MAISACHDSETTS, TRIS SIMPLE RECORD OF MY LATER DAYS AND DOINGS.

C. C. A.

THERE BEECHES, May 25, 1897.



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PREFACE

THE author has this consolation: a preface is the whim of the publisher, and so no reasonable reader will look for literary merit in this perfunctory feature of a book.

I have one statement to make that gives me great satisfaction and is in place here, if anywhere. I wrote the following pages for my own amusement, and never for an instant had in mind either the patience of a possible reader or the views of any publisher as to what a book should be. I have not adopted a single suggestion made by critics of earlier volumes, but gone out of my way to repeat the offence, complained of recently, of sneering at the impudent assumption of some, necessarily nameless. For once, I have said my say in precisely my own fashion. Never before has this privilege been unrestrictedly allowed me, and not improbably there are

those who will cry out, "So much the worse for you."

Pages, here and there, of this volume have seen the light of day before in periodicals, and are here reproduced by permission. I trust the reader will not be moved to say of such, "And once was quite sufficient," or feel it his duty to find serious fault with that which confronts him for the first time.

C. C. A.

TRAIR BEZCHES, May 25, 1897.