

PROVINCIAL TALES

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Provincial Tales by Gertrude H. Bone

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GERTRUDE H. BONE

**PROVINCIAL
TALES**



MORNING ON THE OUTSKIRTS.





Provincial Tales

By
Gertrude H. Bone


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Preface and Apology

IT must have been observed by most people at some time in their lives that the average person, speaking an entirely derived and imparted language, and living out of reach of emotion or passion, never, from one end of a comfortable existence to the other, utters a single inspiring, moving, or natural phrase. If passion, therefore, or deep feeling finds out such a one, it discovers him without any speech in which to express his emotion. His habitual facile speech is felt to be inadequate, since it has never after all expressed any feeling of his own, but rather what is felt to be due to, or customarily called forth by, the occurrence which has taken place. If he become ex-

PREFACE AND APOLOGY

pressive at all, therefore, under the urgency of passion, it is in a language or gesture very little to be distinguished from that found out for themselves by children or unsophisticated persons ; and so universally is this accepted as true, that a man apparently under the influence of deep feeling who should fail from this simplicity of language, would be immediately accused of want of depth in feeling or of playing a part.

On the other hand, the ignorant poor, having at their disposal the most meagre and halting speech for their habitual need, reverse this customary law. Inexpressive by nature and education they are forced, under the pressure of bewildering circumstances or strong passion, to find for themselves an expression as nearly as possible derived from their actual sensations, and thus they often (since poetry is written in the same manner) attain in the communication of their deepest feeling to a dignified and



PREFACE AND APOLOGY

moving language to be sought for in vain among people of an easier speech. To gather such moments as when, breaking under the strength of feeling from their accustomed reticence, narrow and unenlightened natures become thus impassioned and expressive, has been the desire of the author of these tales. Perhaps the experiment may be found to be interesting.





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