

RUTH THE GLEANER

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Ruth the gleaner by May Field McKean

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BY
MAY FIELD MCKEAN

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A. J. ROWLAND
MCCCCXVII

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TO THE
BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION

of Philadelphia

this little volume is most cordially

DEDICATED

with the prayer that each member may

unite in his own character

the noble winsomeness of NAOMI

and the loving faithfulness of

RUTH



Author's Note



The story of Ruth and Naomi has always seemed to me, while clearly showing God's ruling and overruling providences in what we call the every-day trifles of our lives, as well as in those steps which we deem more important, to emphasize, AS ITS ESPECIAL LESSON, the peculiar duty laid upon every Christian by the very circumstances of his confession, not only to be LOVING, but to be LOVABLE. Had Naomi, in a strange country, and amid sorrows which would have crushed the sweetness and tenderness out of many a heart and life, won from her daughter-in-law less of personal love to herself, the whole of sacred history thereafter would have been changed.

Sometimes, perhaps, we fall into unlovely ways of look or speech or action, because we forget for a time our high calling; forget that we are representatives of the Master, and witnesses to his love; forget even to

keep that love aglow within us. May the mission of this little book be to remind us all that, though far from home, aye, even though our hearts may be throbbing with a sorrow, of which only the Father knows, it is still not only our duty, but our blessed and highest privilege, to win to the kingdom those whom God places in any relation to us THROUGH THE PERSONAL LOVE with which he blesses our own lives.

*God is love; we are his children;
As you show that love abroad,
May our friends and loved companions
Loving us be led to God.*

M. F. McK.

*1850 N. Twelfth St., Philadelphia
March, 1897.*