

**LIFE'S LITTLE IRONIES: A SET OF
TALES, WITH SOME
COLLOQUIAL SKETCHES,
ENTITLED A FEW CRUSTED
CHARACTERS, PP. 1-266**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649635139

Life's Little Ironies: A Set of Tales, with Some Colloquial Sketches, Entitled a Few Crusted Characters, pp. 1-266 by Thomas Hardy

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

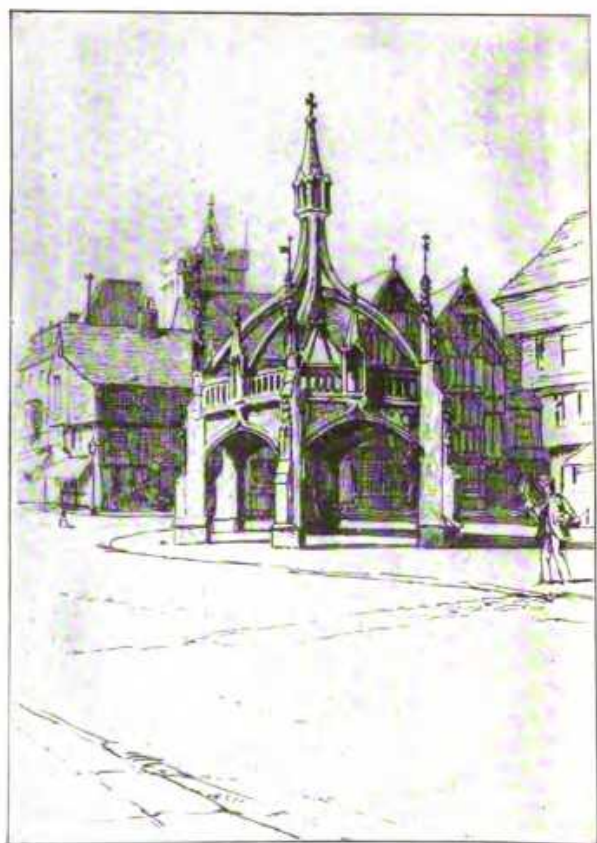
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

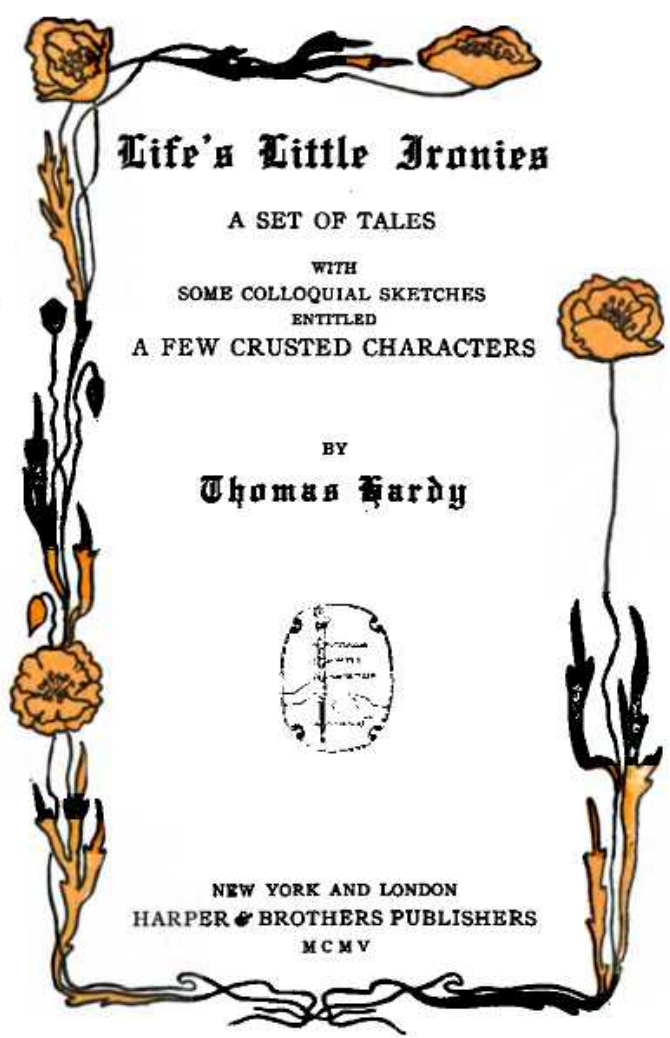
THOMAS HARDY

**LIFE'S LITTLE IRONIES: A SET OF
TALES, WITH SOME
COLLOQUIAL SKETCHES,
ENTITLED A FEW CRUSTED
CHARACTERS, PP. 1-266**

LIFE'S LITTLE IRONIES



Uor M



Life's Little Ironies

A SET OF TALES

WITH
SOME COLLOQUIAL SKETCHES
ENTITLED
A FEW CRUSTED CHARACTERS

BY

Thomas Hardy



NEW YORK AND LONDON
HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS
MCMV

Copyright, 1894, by HARPER & BROTHERS.

All rights reserved.

01801259

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE SON'S VETO	8
FOR CONSCIENCE' SAKE	22
A TRAGEDY OF TWO AMBITIONS	44
ON THE WESTERN CIRCUIT	76
TO PLEASE HIS WIFE	107
THE MELANCHOLY HUSSAR OF THE GERMAN LEGION	129
THE FIDDLER OF THE KEELS	153
A TRADITION OF 1864	175
A FEW CRUSTED CHARACTERS	187
TONY KYTES, THE ARCH-DECEIVER	193
THE HISTORY OF THE HARDOOMES	205
THE SUPERSTITIOUS MAN'S STORY	218
ANDREY SATCHEL AND THE PARSON AND CLERK	233
OLD ANDREY'S EXPERIENCE AS A MUSICIAN	234
ABSENT-MINDEDNESS IN A PARISH CHOIR	238
THE WINTERS AND THE PALMLEYS	243
INCIDENT IN THE LIFE OF MR. GEORGE CROOK- HILL	254
NETTY SARGENT'S COPYHOLD	260

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

THE SON'S VETO

I

To the eyes of a man viewing it from behind, the nut-brown hair was a wonder and a mystery. Under the black beaver hat, surmounted by its tuft of black feathers, the long locks, braided and twisted and coiled like the rushes of a basket, composed a rare, if somewhat barbaric, example of ingenious art. One could understand such weavings and coilings being wrought to last intact for a year, or even a calendar month; but that they should be all demolished regularly at bedtime, after a single day of permanence, seemed a reckless waste of successful fabrication.

And she had done it all herself, poor thing. She had no maid, and it was almost the only accomplishment she could boast of. Hence the unstinted pains.

She was a young invalid lady—not so very much of an invalid—sitting in a wheeled chair, which had been pulled up in the front part of a green enclosure, close to a band-stand, where a concert was going on, during a warm June afternoon. It had place in one of the minor parks or private gardens that are to be found in the suburbs of London, and was the effort of a local association to raise money for some charity. There are worlds within worlds in the great city, and though nobody outside the immediate district had ever heard of the charity, or the band, or the garden,