A FLORENTINE REVERY; PP. 1-73

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A Florentine Revery; pp. 1-73 by H. H. Powers

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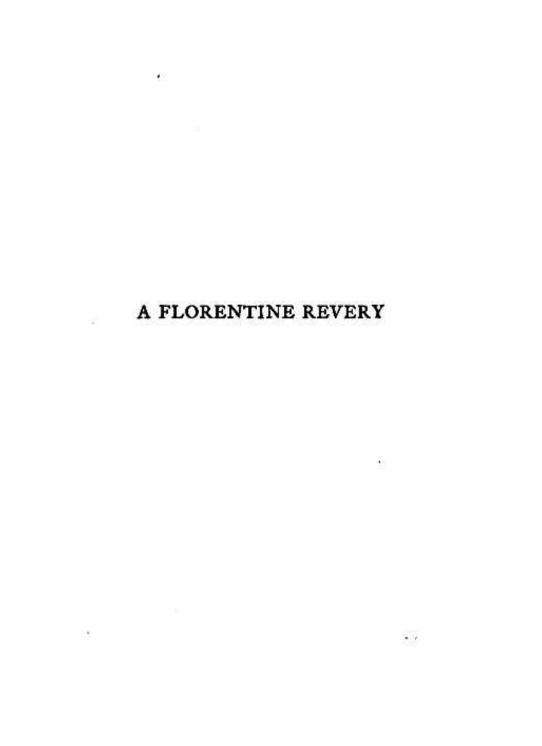
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H. H. POWERS

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A Florentine Revery

H. H. Powers

President of The Bureau of University Travel

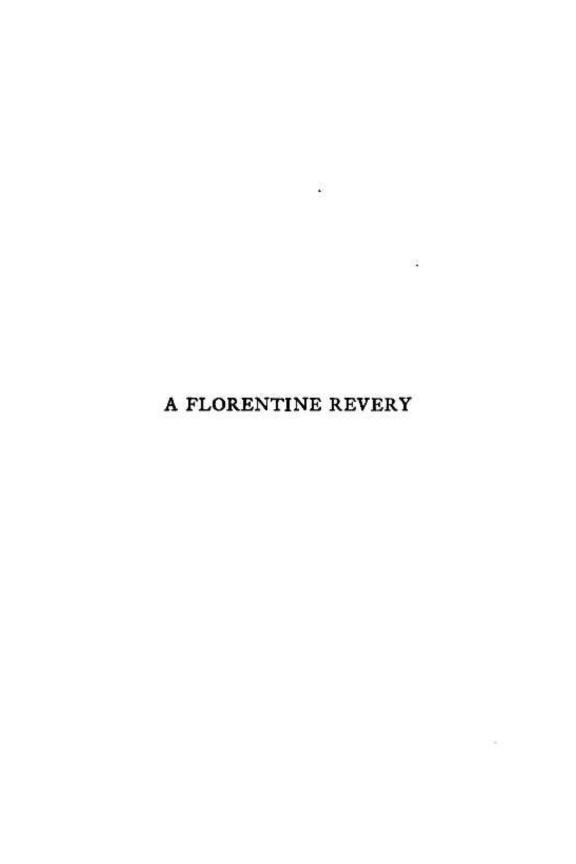
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The following pages lay no claim to the character of exact history. The aim has been to give pictorial expression to certain significant phases and prominent personalities in the life of a famous city. The dates here assumed are more or less arbitrary and the sequence of events somewhat simplified. In the interest of pictorial completeness conjecture has been freely admitted to fill the inevitable void of the historic record. All this, it is hoped, is consistent with that essential truth which, if respected, may legitimately be clothed in such historic accidents as we will.



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A FLORENTINE REVERY

From the visitor's seat on the ramparts of old Fiesole the traveler looks out upon one of the most suggestive scenes in Italy. Around him are the relics of the much metamorphosed ancient Etruscan city. Here are still the huge stones that were moss grown when the she wolf was suckling Romulus. The open square a few yards below, down the steep path, is the ancient forum or market, adjoined by the Roman theatre, the mediaevel cathedral, and the very modern statues of Victor Emanuel and Garibaldi. For Fiesole covers well nigh the whole span of history, and no age of stirring achievement has failed to leave its memorial.

But it is not these nearer surroundings that first challenge attention. Beyond the battlement the eye ranges over one of the most remarkable views in Europe. It is not merely that the view is enchanting, though this is indubitable. The view is unique in all Italy if not in all Europe. A broad, saucer shaped depression, perhaps forty miles in diameter, and bounded by a remarkably regular rim of hills extends before us, the whole clothed in richest verdure and enlivened by flashes from the gleaming