

**MRS. MARTIN'S  
COMPANY**

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Mrs. Martin's Company by Jane Barlow

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**JANE BARLOW**

**MRS. MARTIN'S  
COMPANY**



TO VIVI  
AMORILLAS



UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

MRS. MARTIN'S COMPANY  
AND OTHER STORIES  
BY JANE BARLOW  
AUTHOR OF "IRISH  
IDYLLS"



WITH ILLUSTRATIONS  
BY BERTHA NEWCOMBE

New York  
MACMILLAN AND CO.

1896

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*“ Ein Kleiner Ring  
Begränzt unser Leben.”*

GOETHE.

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## NOTE

“Mrs Martin’s Company” and “A Very Light Railway” appeared in *The National Review*, “A Lost Recruit” and “A Case of Conscience,” in *The Pall Mall Magazine*. I am indebted to the Editors of these periodicals for permission to reprint the stories here.

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## MRS MARTIN'S COMPANY

MRS MARTIN lived down a high-banked lane, which, as it led no whither in particular, was subject to little traffic, and which she occupied all by herself, though her cabin stood the middle one in a row of three. You could see at a glance that the left-hand dwelling was vacant, for the browned thatch had fallen in helplessly, and the rafters stuck up through it like the ribs of a stranded wreck. The other was less obviously deserted; still its plight could be easily perceived in weedy threshold and cobweb-curtained window. It testified strongly to the lonesomeness of the neighbourhood that no child had yet enjoyed the bliss of sending a stone crash through the flawed greenish pane. Both of them had, in fact, been empty for many months. From the ruined one the Egan family had gone piecemeal, following each other westward in detachments, until even the wrinkled parents were settled in California, where they blinked by day at the strange fierce sunshine,