

**THE OLD WHITE
MEETINGHOUSE; OR,
REMINISCENCES OF A
COUNTRY CONGREGATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649511174

The Old White Meetinghouse; Or, Reminiscences of a Country Congregation by Anonymous

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

ANONYMOUS

**THE OLD WHITE
MEETINGHOUSE; OR,
REMINISCENCES OF A
COUNTRY CONGREGATION**

G. M. Musgrave

THE
✓ OLD WHITE MEETINGHOUSE;
OR,
REMINISCENCES
OF A
COUNTRY CONGREGATION.

“At church, with meek and unaffected grace,
His looks adorned the venerable place;
Truth from his lips prevailed with double sway,
And fools, who came to scoff, remained to pray.”
GOLDSMITH.

SECOND EDITION.

NEW YORK:
ROBERT CARTER, 58 CANAL STREET,
AND PITTSBURG, 56 MARKET STREET.

1846.

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1846,
BY ROBERT CARTER,
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States,
in and for the Southern District of New York.

Stereotyped by Redfield & Savage,
13 Chambers street, N. Y.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE following pages are the records of truth. They are given to the public with a good motive, and the reader will find that "still life" in the country, may furnish scenes of interest as intense and stirring as the realms of fiction.

The writer has aimed at doing good by these sketches. Evils in country congregations, more or less common to all, he has rebuked with an unsparing hand; while in the good pastor and many of his flock, there are bright examples of faith and works, that he has loved to portray for the admiration and imitation of those who may

contemplate them. If the *characters* here described are recognised, the writer trusts to the good sense of the people, to pardon him for the liberty he has taken with those whose *kindness* he remembers with gratitude, and whose *faces* he can never forget.

NEW YORK, *March* 26, 1846.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.	PAGE.
The Old White Meetinghouse	7
CHAPTER II.	
The Old Graveyard.....	19
CHAPTER III.	
“Our Minister”.....	29
CHAPTER IV.	
The People—Scenes in the Church—Elder Butler—Mrs. Burtis and her Child—Elder Van Slate—Mrs Sniffle.....	50
CHAPTER V.	
Our Singing-Schools—Dancing-Schools.....	73
CHAPTER VI.	
Old-Fashioned Revivals—The Ball—The Horse-race.....	99
CHAPTER VII.	
Spinning-Bees—Apple-Parings—Weddings.....	128

	PAGE.
CHAPTER VIII.	
The Secret Disciple.....	155
CHAPTER IX.	
The Forger.....	169
CHAPTER X.	
The First Grief—Taking it easy.....	183
CHAPTER XI.	
Richard Rogers's First Sermon.....	194
CHAPTER XII.	
Dismissal of "Our Minister".....	209

REMINISCENCES
OF A
COUNTRY CONGREGATION.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY SCENES AND IMPRESSIONS — THE OLD
WHITE MEETING-HOUSE.

DRIVEN about for many and weary years on the world's wide sea, I have at last made harbor here in this goodly city of Gotham, better known as New York. But my heart turns often and fondly to that spot away up in the country, where my boyhood and youth were passed, where those dear to me are buried, where I first learned to read and to pray, where I thought to live and to die. It was in the old town of ———, in the state of ———, and those who know not