## FAMILY SITTING-ROOM SERIES. A LADY AND HER LETTERS

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Family Sitting-Room Series. A Lady and Her Letters by Katherine E. Conway

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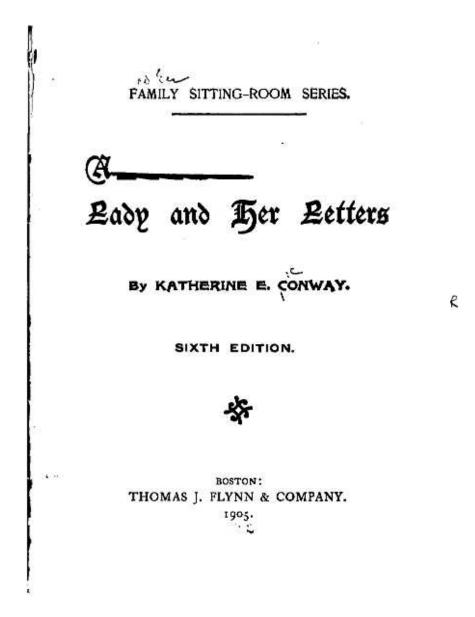
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## **KATHERINE E. CONWAY**

# FAMILY SITTING-ROOM SERIES. A LADY AND HER LETTERS

Trieste



### To

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## The Friends at whose desire J have made it,

## J bedicate

This Little Book.

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## A LADY AND HER LETTERS.

### I.

### The Long-Lived Waritten Offlord.



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VERYBODY has to write letters. Some one of the hundreds of letters which the most ordinary individual will write in the course of his life-time, may make or mar his whole career. Every letter of the hundreds will have its

own influence for or against his advancement or happiness. Every one, therefore, should know how to write letters.

Should the composition classes and literary courses in our schools, the post-graduate literary societies and reading circles, of after years, accomplish nothing but to fit the man and woman of average intelligence to

#### A LADY AND HER LETTERS.

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perform well this necessary and frequent duty, they would nevertheless more than justify their existence.

It seems a simple thing to write a letter. Granting that one knows how to write and spell and construct a sentence, there should be, it would seem, no further difficulty. Yet of a multitude of clever, fairly educated people, how few are adepts in the fine art of letter-writing 1

· Why is it so ? Do our teachers, in giving the rules for acquiring the power of expression in writing, forget to emphasize their most ordinary and necessary application? The topics set for a school-girl especially are often too formal, or too remote from her every-day interests and sympathies. Why task her with writing "A Parallel between the Characters of Napoleon and Washington," or an essay on "The Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians" ?--we are drawing from real life. She might far better be set at framing an invitation to luncheon or dinner and the answer thereto; an application for a position, or the response to an employer's advertisement for assistants; or, for the development of descriptive powers and a slight indulgence to sentiment and fancy, a letter to a friend, describing the most eventful week in the writer's summer vacation.

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