

THE PETERKIN PAPERS

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The Peterkin papers by Lucretia P. Hale

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LUCRETIA P. HALE

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PAPERS**

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BY

LUCRETIA P. HALE

With Illustrations.



BOSTON:
JAMES R. OSGOOD AND COMPANY,
1880.

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THE PETERKIN PAPERS:

Dedicated

TO MEGGIE

(THE DAUGHTER OF THE LADY FROM PHILADELPHIA),

TO WHOM THESE STORIES WERE FIRST TOLD.



P R E F A C E .

HOW THE PETERKINS CAME TO PUBLISH THEIR
ADVENTURES.

THE Peterkin family were discussing certain troubles of theirs that occurred one night when they had been to the Carnival of Authors in Boston. They were much distressed with the difficulty of making people understand about it. Their neighbors were constantly asking why it was they went in costume, and why they were kept out of their own house and obliged to spend the night at the station. Many strange stories were abroad, and it was not agreeable to be so talked over, certainly, without chance of explanation. Solomon John then suggested that a true account of their adventures should be written out, and published in all of the leading papers.

Mrs. Peterkin shrank from this; it would make the whole matter more public than ever.

Mr. Peterkin asked if she would prefer a book of their adventures; she declared that she would, for there would be the covers, which would seem to shut it up, and make the matter less public.

Mr. Peterkin thought a book might contain other adventures of the family. Solomon John would have written a book before now, if he had known what to write. Why not mention that fact? The history of their troubles with keys would explain in part the difficulty of getting into their own house the night of the Carnival, for if Agamemnon's invention of "one key alone necessary," had been patented, they would have been saved this perplexity.

Each one of the family recalled some event that might form the subject of a chapter. Mrs. Peterkin reminded them of their Fourth of July explosion, and the fire. Elizabeth Eliza thought the worst day was, when there was no fire, but the engines insisted on coming, and