

**THE SILENT
PARTNER.
[BOSTON]**

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The Silent Partner. [Boston] by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps

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ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS

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PARTNER.
[BOSTON]**

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THE SILENT PARTNER

BY

ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS

AUTHOR OF "THE GATES Ajar," "SINNERS IN," ETC.

"Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider,"

DACON.



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NOTE.



IN the compilation of the facts which go to form this fiction, it seems desirable to say that I believe I have neither overlooked nor libelled those intelligent manufacturers who have expended much Christian ingenuity, with much remarkable success, in ameliorating the condition of factory operatives, and in blunting the edge of those misapprehensions and disaffections which exist between capital and labor, between employer and employed, between ease and toil, between millions and mills, the world over.

Had Christian ingenuity been generally synonymous with the conduct of manufacturing corporations, I should have found no occasion for the writing of this book.

I believe that a wide-spread ignorance exists among us regarding the abuses of our factory system, more especially, but not exclusively, as exhibited in many of the country mills.

I desire it to be understood that every alarming sign and every painful statement which I have given in these pages concerning the condition of the manufacturing districts could be matched with far less cheerful reading, and with far more pungent perplexities, from the pages of the Reports of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor, to which, with other documents of a kindred nature, and to the personal assistance of friends who have "testified that they have seen," I am deeply in debt for the ribs of my story.

E. S. P.

ANDOVER, December, 1870.

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