

**ANYHOW STORIES,  
MORAL AND  
OTHERWISE**

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Anyhow Stories, Moral and Otherwise by Mrs. W. K. Clifford

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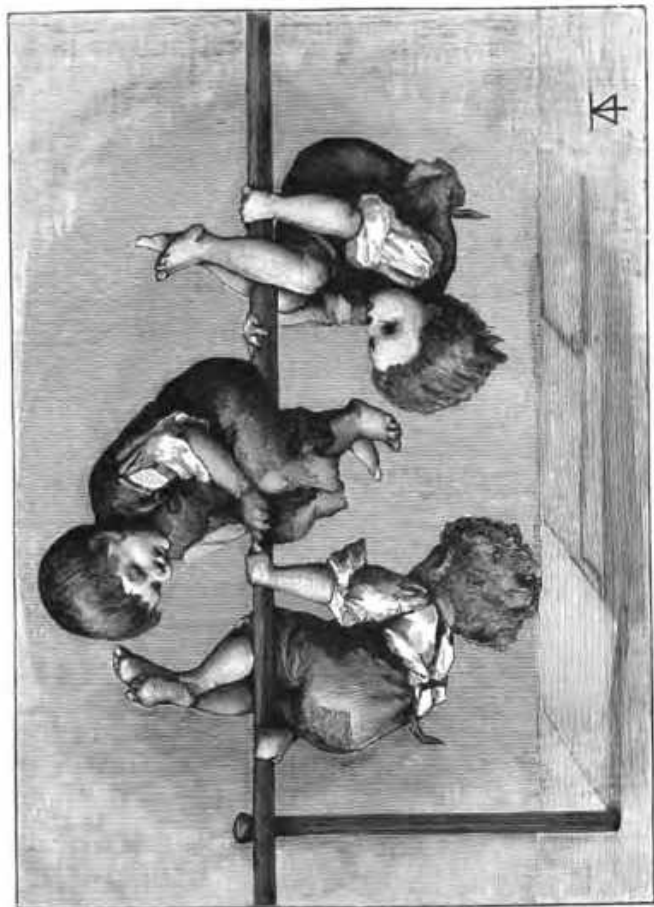
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**MRS. W. K. CLIFFORD**

**ANYHOW STORIES,  
MORAL AND  
OTHERWISE**





*Promisfree.*

THEY TURNED, WHIRLED, AND TWISTED OVER THE RAIL.—P. 37.

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# ANYHOW STORIES

MORAL AND OTHERWISE

BY

MRS. W. K. CLIFFORD

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DOROTHY TENNANT

London

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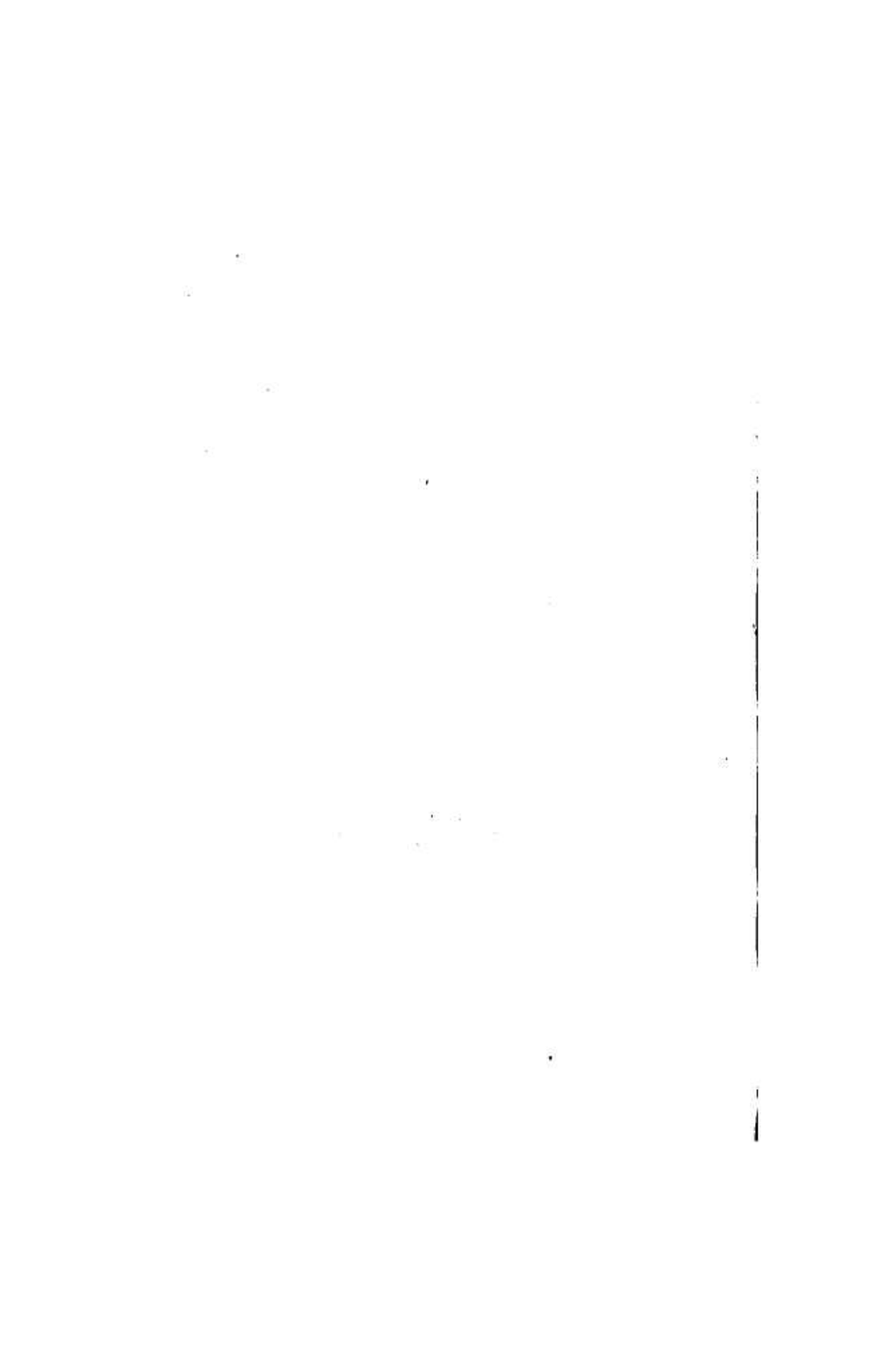


To my Dear Ones.

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## ANYHOW STORIES.

### THE COBBLER'S CHILDREN.

LONG years ago, my children, all through a dreary afternoon a child sat in a garret working a sampler. Do you know what a sampler is? It is a bit of canvas on which are worked in cross-stitch some words, and now and then some little pictures. Long ago children were always taught to make them, so that when they became women they might know how to mark their table-cloths and pillow-cases and all the linen of the house, for in those days no tidy housewife had thought of writing her name in ink upon her belongings.

The child's brother was busy at the other end of the garret making a table. At Christmas time a great lady had sent him a box of tools; so with some bits of wood his uncle the carpenter had given him he set to work to make her a little table, just as a

mark of his gratitude, and to show her how useful the tools would be and how well he meant to work with them. And all the time he was cutting and fitting and measuring the little bits of wood, he was thinking of a book his father had once read to him. The book was written by a wise man, and the wise man had said that he who made the first perfect thing of its kind, no matter how small or simple the thing might be, had worked not merely for himself but for the whole world. He left off for a moment to wonder how this might be, and to think how grand a thing it was to work for the world. "It is a beautiful place," his father said on the day they had read the book together, "and a grand thing to think we have all of us the making of its furniture." Then the boy looked up at the window and at the shoemaker's bench that stood by it, and at an unfinished shoe, a little child's shoe, that was on the bench. "Father takes so much trouble to work well," he said to himself. "He often says that when one does well, one does some good to the whole world, for one helps to make it better ; and that when one does badly or does wrong, one does it to the whole world and helps to make it worse than one found it. But," he added, "that cannot be so always. How, for instance, can the