

A RAMBLER'S LEASE

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A Rambler's Lease by Bradford Torrey

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BRADFORD TORREY

**A RAMBLER'S
LEASE**

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HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO.
BOSTON AND NEW YORK.

A RAMBLER'S LEASE

BY

BRADFORD TORREY

I have known many laboring men that have got good estates
in this valley. — BUNYAN

Sunbeams, shadows, butterflies, and birds. — WORDSWORTH



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY
The Riverside Press, Cambridge
1892

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE writer of this little book has found so much pleasure in other men's woods and fields that he has come to look upon himself as in some sort the owner of them. Their lawful possessors will not begrudge him this feeling, he believes, nor take it amiss if he assumes, even in this public way, to hold *a rambler's lease* of their property. Should it please them to do so, they may accept the papers herein contained as a kind of return, the best he knows how to offer, for the many favors, alike unproffered and unasked, which he has received at their hands. His private opinion is that the world belongs to those who enjoy it; and taking this view of the

matter, he cannot help thinking that some of his more prosperous neighbors would do well, in legal phrase, to perfect their titles. He would gladly be of service to them in this regard.

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A RAMBLER'S LEASE.

MY REAL ESTATE.

Yet some did think that he had little business here.—
WORDSWORTH.

EVERY autumn the town of W—— sends me a tax-bill, a kindly remembrance for which I never fail of feeling grateful. It is pleasant to know that after all these years there still remains one man in the old town who cherishes my memory, — though it be only “this publican.” Besides, to speak frankly, there is a measure of satisfaction in being reminded now and then of my dignity as a landed proprietor. One may be never so rich in stocks and bonds, government consols and what not, but, acceptable as such “securities” are, they are after all not quite the same as a section of the solid globe itself. True, this species of what we may call astronomic or planetary property will sometimes prove compara-