

THE MINISTRY OF LOVE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649649242

The Ministry of Love by Irene Abbott

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IRENE ABBOTT

**THE MINISTRY
OF LOVE**



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MINISTRY OF LOVE

BY
m. m. m. m. m.
IRENE ABBOTT



TOPEKA, KANSAS
CRANE & COMPANY, PRINTERS
1908

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To my Daughter.

PREFACE.

IN sending forth my little volume on its "Ministry of Love," I can but hope that many of the verses will fulfill their mission.

I have written my book for that great "middle class" among whom I labor (having consecrated my life to the rescue work), and whom I love. I know, too, that these have little time or opportunity for literary study. To the average man and woman, life is a time of labor, with but little rest, and it is a boon that is fast slipping away from all.

I therefore think that they to whom I send my book will say with one who wrote many years ago: "What if the gold be wrapped up in ore? None throw away the apple for the core," and will by my

simple song be led nearer to Him whose love is so precious to mortal man.

When, three years ago, I published my first little volume of verse, "Lyrics of the West," it was well received, and many of the critics spoke more kindly than I felt the work merited. Some, however, gave evidence of having read hastily, so that the meaning of my song was overlooked while the errors were plainly seen.

I ask of those who read this little volume, will you not "come hither, and lay my book, thy head, and heart together"?

I know that errors exist in the book, and very many of them, too, but I am powerless to write as I would. I will say this, that I have not sought the literary life,—it is forever beyond my reach; but the things I write, sing in my heart until I must give expression to them.

If it should be that any heart would be softer, and cleaner, and better, after my song, I shall be satisfied.

IRENE McMILLAN-ABBOTT.

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