

DRIFT FROM LONGSHORE

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Drift from longshore by Denham Jordan

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DENHAM JORDAN

**DRIFT FROM
LONGSHORE**



From an original drawing by A. Thorne.

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Drift from Longshore

BY Denham Jordan
(A SON OF THE MARSHES)¹¹¹

EDITED BY
J. A. OWEN

WITH A FRONTISPIECE BY A. THORBURN

LONDON
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PREFACE.

SOME of our readers and critics have complained that the localities amongst which "A Son of the Marshes" was brought up, and where his observations in natural history were first made, are too vaguely indicated in the books already published.

To meet this objection I have, in editing the present volume, added a few topographical details which will, I trust, serve to give more definiteness to the scenes therein described.

JEAN A. OWEN.

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DRIFT FROM LONGSHORE.

CHAPTER I.

RANGING THE DYKES.

MILTON-NEXT-SITTINGBOURNE, the centre about which these Marshland incidents are grouped, has played no mean part in the history of our country. "It lies," says an old writer, "as it were, hid among the creeks, for it is almost out of sight, as well by water as by land, and yet it is a large town, as it is a considerable port for barges, and a capital fishery for those oysters called Milton or Melton oysters, which are so valuable." It is at the mouth of the Swale opposite the Island of Sheppey, near where the waters of the Thames and the Medway meet. At the beginning of this century Milton was little more than a long straggling fishing village on the edge of the salt marshes, although it still contained some buildings which spoke of former prosperity and business activity. The hundred of Milton held its Court leet which was said to have