

**THE INGHAM PAPERS: SOME MEMORIALS
OF THE LIFE OF CAPT. FREDERIC INGHAM,
SOMETIME PASTOR OF THE
FIRST SANDEMANIAN CHURCH IN
NAGUADAVICK, AND MAJOR GENERAL BY
BREVET IN THE PATRIOT SERVICE IN ITALY**

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EDWARD E. HALE

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UNIFORM WITH THIS VOLUME.

IF, YES, AND PERHAPS.

*FOUR POSSIBILITIES AND SIX EXAGGERATIONS,
WITH SOME BITS OF FACT.*

By EDWARD E. HALE.

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SOMETIMES

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AUTHOR OF "IF, YET, AND PERHAPS."

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MEMOIR
OF
CAPTAIN FREDERIC INGHAM.

It is always difficult to write the biography of the living. It is more difficult to write the biography of a friend. In attempting to put on paper a few memoranda of Captain Frederic Ingham's life, I am hampered by both difficulties. We have lived on the most intimate terms. I have shared his thoughts, his purse, his confidence. I have slept under the same blanket with him ; have bivouacked on the same mountain-top with him ; have shared in the same adventure. Yet he never told me in set form the order of his life ; nor do I know, from any memoranda of his, what he would wish me to put down, and what he would wish to have omitted.

He is now absent in Siberia, in connection with the telegraph enterprise, which is alluded to in this volume. His wife is visiting in Bohemia, on some estates of a friend of theirs. I am sometimes led to think that there is Bohemian blood in both of them. Meanwhile, I am left with a general direction to pre-

pare these papers for the press, and a general permission to state what is necessary in the way of biography, with a hint that Colonel Ingham has himself on the stocks an "autobiography," which, if it is ever finished, and the public ever want it, the public will probably have.

The intimate relations of Mr. and Mrs. Ingham with Mr. George Hackmatack and Mrs. Julia Hackmatack, with Mr. George Haliburton and Mrs. Anna Haliburton, with Mr. Felix Carter and Mrs. Fausta Carter, — relations which are alluded to in all parts of his papers, — have not so often relieved the difficulties of his biographer as might have been hoped. It is true that, when in Boston, these amiable persons spend much time together. It is also true that most of the gentlemen are great talkers, fond of recalling the incidents of their lives, which they narrate at very considerable length, not careful whether the listeners have or have not heard them mentioned before. It is also true that the ladies are quite good listeners, and but seldom cut short their historical or biographical narrations. But, almost always, when I recur to the gentlemen of this little coterie for detail as to Ingham's life, I find they have paid but little attention to his narratives, except as they opened the way to their own; and the ladies, if I recur to them, show an indifference to dates, to synchronisms, and to succession of event, which, to the historian, is appalling. They have a habit, when they commit to writing any of

these memoirs, of using Towndrow's first system of shorthand, — a stenography easily written and read. But, unfortunately, they all learned it of each other in their boyhood ; so that, of a given memoir of any past time, it is impossible to tell from the handwriting which of the four jotted it down, and even the facts stated in the first person cannot be verified without repeated reference to personal authorities.

Yet another source of confusion arises from the fact that there are two Frederic Inghams, so closely connected with each other at one time, and indeed so strongly resembling each other personally, that they are often mistaken for each other, even by intimate friends. An inadvertence on the part of one of these gentlemen, at a public meeting in Naguadavick, threw the other, the Rev. Mr. Ingham (whom I have already spoken of as the Captain and the Colonel) out of the station which he then filled in the ministry in that town. You are never certain, therefore, whether a given narration of Mr. Frederic Ingham's goings and comings belongs to the clergyman, or to the fellow-citizen who acted as his double, unless you can get the testimony of one of them or the other.

Subject to the drawbacks at which I have thus hinted, the following sketch of Mr. Ingham's life is offered, as a skeleton, on which may be hung the disjointed members found in these pages, and in a similar volume published last year by Messrs. Fields, Osgood, and Company, under the title "If, Yes, and Perhaps."