

CHARITY

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Charity by R. B. Cunninghame Graham

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R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM

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BY

R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM



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PREFACE

HOPE has been said to be the quality of youth, and faith of middle age.

Therefore, it ought to follow, that the old should cling to charity as the best antidote to avarice, their chief besetting sin. If, though, they have not in their youth been hopeful, and in their middle years imbued with faith, that is both in themselves, in others, and in the world in which they live, charity is not for them in age. Hope carries in itself something that impels our admiration ; faith our respect ; but charity is like a mountain seedling-pine, springing up oft in barren places, rooted amongst the rocks and flourishing in the chilliest blasts of life, and in despite of fate.

Honour and virtue do not of necessity take with them charity ; neither can base estate nor any adverse circumstance of life stifle it in the hearts of those, to whom it comes, just as the fire shines out from a black opal, almost without their ken.

In a dark winding lane, just underneath the shadow of the rock on which Tarik first disem-