

**AN ACCOUNT OF ANNE
BRADSTREET, THE
PURITAN POETESS,
AND KINDRED TOPICS**

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An account of Anne Bradstreet, the Puritan poetess, and kindred topics by Luther Caldwell

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LUTHER CALDWELL

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(Copyright 1898.)

ANNE BRADSTREET.

(See page 43.)

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OF
ANNE BRADSTREET
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PURITAN POETESS
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EDITED BY
COLONEL LUTHER CALDWELL.



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1898

PREFACE.

THE first woman's club formed in Massachusetts was Ann Hutchinson's Meeting, organized to meet every Thursday morning in Boston to examine the text and criticise the sermon preached the Sunday previous by her pastor, Rev. John Cotton. And almost at the same time Anne Bradstreet was busily at work in Ipswich writing poetry so abundantly, that John Harvard Ellis, in his large quarto edition of her works, takes over four hundred pages to give them all complete. Ann Hutchinson, for her efforts, was tried, convicted, and like another "Hagar," sent into the wilderness. Anne Bradstreet sent her writings to London, where they were printed, and she was praised and eulogized by the same learned and wise men who prosecuted Ann Hutchinson. Mrs. Bradstreet asked no favors, but said:

"And oh ye high flown quills that soar the Skies,
And ever with your prey still catch your praise,
If e'er you daigne these lowly lines your eyes
Give Thyme or Parsley wreath, I ask no bayes."

In this volume I have had space to give only scanty selections from Anne Bradstreet's writings, and have endeavored to choose some of her best and most harmonious poetry, and took the first thirty-seven paragraphs or sections of her "Meditations." To those who wish to read her larger compositions, her "Quarternions," I refer to Mr. Ellis' quarto work. I desire to extend my thanks to Rev. Augustine Caldwell, the Historian and Genealogist, for many words of advice and encouragement. If this effort of mine, with its text, quotations and illustrations shall create a greater interest in Anne Bradstreet's writings, and of the early Colonial history of Puritan Massachusetts, the object of the undersigned will have been accomplished.

LUTHER CALDWELL.

December 1, 1898.

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