

**THE SUNNY SIDE;
OR, THE COUNTRY
MINISTER'S WIFE**

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The sunny side; or, the country minister's wife by H. Trusta

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SUNNY SIDE;

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NOTE.

THE scene of the incidents in this volume lies in New England; and many of the terms which occur in it, as well as many of the customs to which allusion is made, have a local significancy, which we presume will be readily understood. The present edition has been revised and enlarged by the Author.

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THE
SUNNY SIDE.

CHAPTER I.

THE PASTOR ELECT.

ONE pleasant summer afternoon, Mr. Edwards, a young clergyman, rode over from Lynnfield to Weston. These are two quiet villages in New England. He rode alone, for his friend, Miss Emily Harding, could not be persuaded to accompany him at this time. He had received an invitation from the church in Weston to become their pastor, and was to be ordained on the following day.

The drive was a delightful one. Much of it took him through still pine woods. The horse's feet fell softly, as if on velvet, and the summer-flies buzzed drowsily, and now and then a squir-

rel chirped, or a bird sang a pleasant song. Our young minister was very thoughtful. To his excited mind, the road over which he was passing seemed like a rainbow bridge, which was linking two parts of his life together—his life of preparation and his life of service. Of the one he was now taking his leave; on the other he was about to enter. His thoughts and affections would linger around past scenes, and he could not bid them adieu without regret; yet the future beckoned him on invitingly. In his heart he was glad to go to work, though he thought—he knew—his work would be one of great care and toil. Hope buckled upon him shining armour. He was full of youthful zeal, and he said, “I am ready for the conflict—Through Christ strengthening me, I can do all things.”

Then he thought of his people; of what they seemed most to need in the way of instruction; of the plans for their improvement which would be most likely to be successful. His mind was fertile in projects; and his imagination, taking the reins, soon drove on to results. Beneath his fostering care, his charge grew in wisdom and grace. He would make the most of himself, for their sakes; and his affections warmed towards them, and he thanked God that He had