

HEMPFIELD

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Hempfield by David Grayson

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DAVID GRAYSON

HEMPFIELD



Hempfield

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Adventures in Solitude

Adventures in Friendship

Adventures in Understanding

Great Possessions

Hempfield



LE L Baker, Ray Stannard
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HEMPFIELD

DAVID GRAYSON (pseud.)



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Chapter I.—I Discover the Printing-Office

FOR years my sister Harriet and I confined our relationships with the neighbouring town of Hempfield to the Biblical "yea, yea" and "nay, nay," not knowing how much we missed, and used its friendly people as one might use an inanimate plough or an insensate rolling-pin, as mere implements or adjuncts in the provision of food or clothing for our needs.

It came only gradually alive for us. As the years passed the utilitarian stranger with whom we traded became an acquaintance, and the acquaintance a friend. Here and there a man or a woman stepped out of the background, as it were, of a dim picture, and became a living being. One of the first was the old gunsmith of whom I have already written. Another was Doctor North—though he really lived outside the town—whom we came to know late in his career. He was one of the great unknown men of this country; he lives yet in many lives, a sort of immor-