# THE LITTLE FIG-TREE STORIES

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The Little Fig-Tree Stories by Mary Hallock Foote

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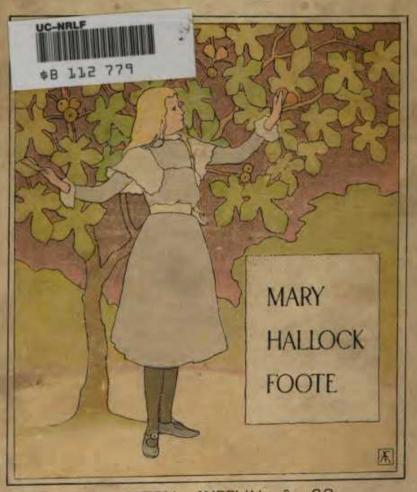
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# MARY HALLOCK FOOTE

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HOUCHTON MIFFLIN & CO.



UP THE LADDER TO THE SCUTTLE (Page 160)

#### THE

# LITTLE FIG-TREE STORIES

BY

# MARY HALLOCK FOOTE

#### WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
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## AUTHOR'S NOTE

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UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

## LITTLE FIG-TREE STORIES

## FLOWER OF THE ALMOND AND FRUIT OF THE FIG

THERE is a garden on a hill slope between the snows of the Sierra Nevada and the warm, rich valleys of the coast. It is in that region of Northern California where the pine belt and the fruit belt interlace. Both pine and fruit trees grow in that mountain garden, and there, in the new moon of February, six young Almond trees burst into flower.

The Peach and Plum trees in the upper garden felt a glow of sympathy with their forward sisters of the south, but the matronly Cherry trees shook their heads at such an untimely show of blossoms. They foresaw the trouble to come.

"The Almond trees," they said, "will lose their fruit buds this year, as they did last and