

**WHERE DORSET
MEETS DEVON**

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Where Dorset meets Devon by Francis Bickley & J. W. King

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FRANCIS BICKLEY & J. W. KING

**WHERE DORSET
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Where Dorset Meets Devon

BY

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ILLUSTRATED BY

J. W. KING

LONDON

CONSTABLE & COMPANY LTD

1911

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THE STORY OF OLD LYME

Where Dorset meets Devon

CHAPTER I

THE STORY OF OLD LYME

IT is a mere truism that one's patriotism has no essential connection with the land of one's birth.

Many an Englishman, for example, who is apparently quite callous about the fate of his own country, will yet show himself keen for the welfare of Egypt or Ireland or India. Nor does it suffice to dismiss such a man as a perverted and despicable creature, in whom the springs of right feeling are dry. That is jingo's verdict, but not philosophy's. For, after all, a man is not responsible for his birthplace, and if his instincts, through I know not what far call of the blood, set him on to champion an alien race, what's to be done? You may talk sagely about free-will and predestination, but the instinct remains, irrepressible at the end of it all.