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Hélène and Other War Verses by Stephen Pell

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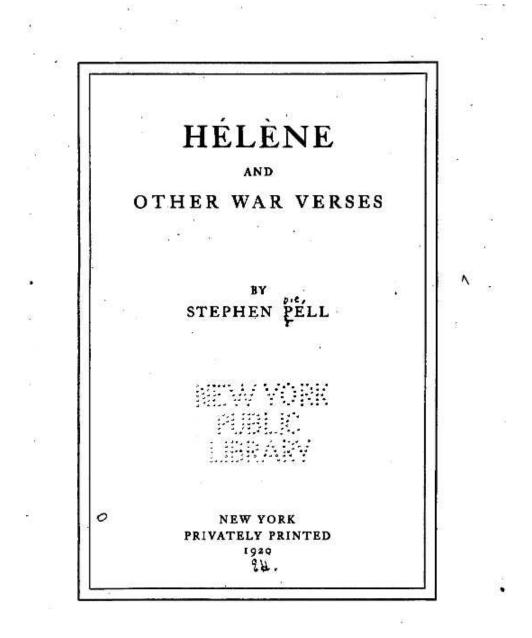
STEPHEN PELL

HÉLÈNE AND OTHER WAR VERSES

Trieste



Hélène



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IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF

STEWART FLAGG Croix de Guerre

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MY FRIEND AND COMRADE IN TWO WARS

AND

NORA SALTONSTALL Croix de Guerre

WHO HELPED CARE FOR ME WHEN I MUCH NEEDED CARE

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

"They gave all that was best in them to the France they loved"

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HÉLÈNE

I MET Hélène one summer's day-

We had driven the Boche across the Aisne, Over the Hills of Hameret, Through the Hell of "The Ladies' Way" (For every inch they made us pay), And we held our furthest gain.

Our old Division was spent and worn;

We had done our part, we had done our best. Regiments shattered and Fanions torn, Comrades wounded and gassed and gone, But hearts were high as we met the morn And were ordered back to rest-

To a long repos behind the line

In the fairest part of Northern France; Hilltops crowned with fir and pine, Valleys ablaze with flower and vine, Each cross-road bearing its little shrine,

The country of True Romance.

We tarried there for a month or more Building our broken ranks again. The busy sergeants sweated and swore, For they must teach the Chasseur Law To the new recruits so young and raw-And then I met Hélène.

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