

THE VOW OF SILENCE

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The vow of silence by Alice Perrin

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ALICE PERRIN

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OF SILENCE**

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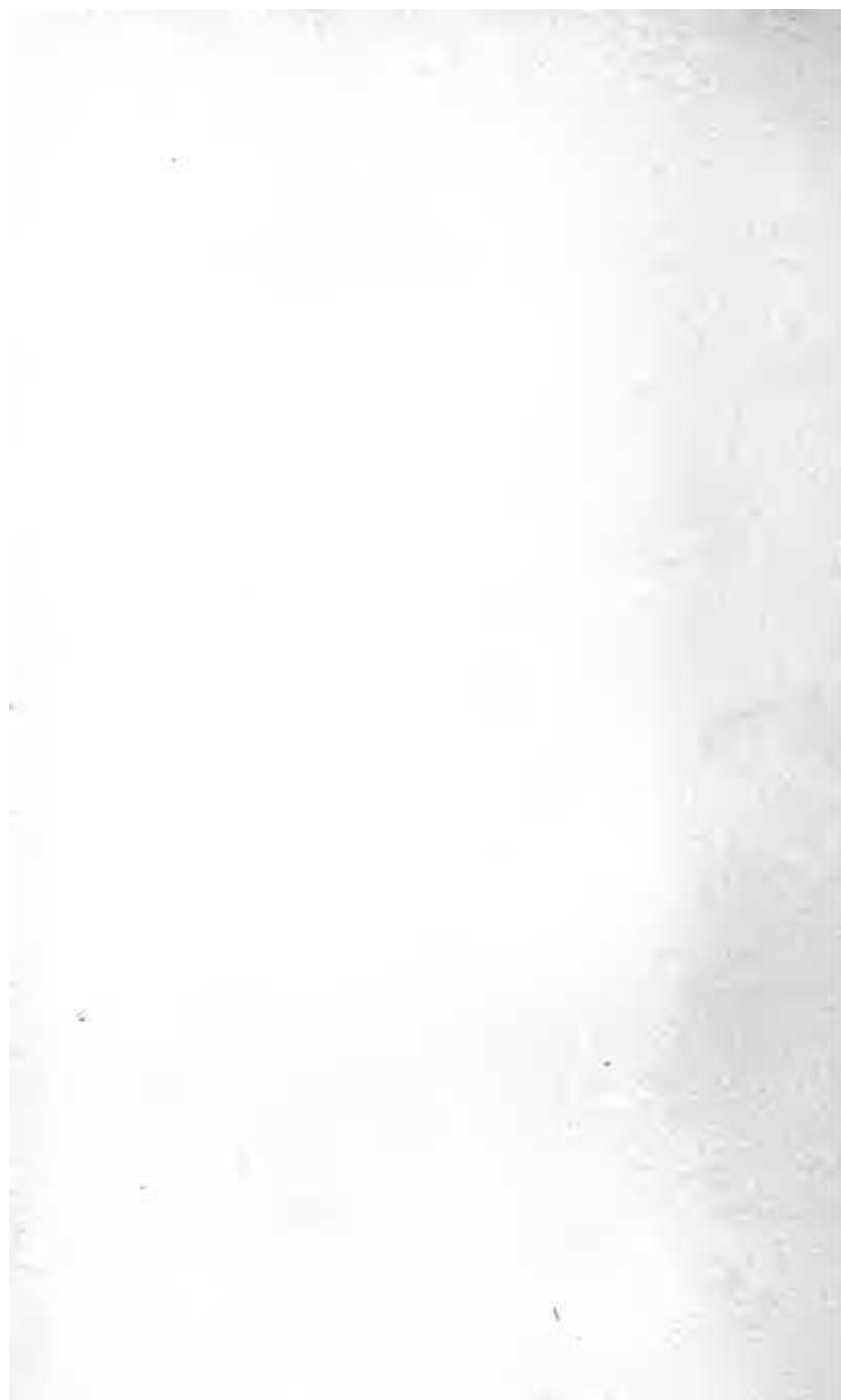


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P427v
1920

**DEDICATED
TO
MY SON**



THE VOW OF SILENCE

CHAPTER I

THE village schoolroom was packed. Combined odours of heavy-breathing humanity, hair oil, and ill-trimmed lamps thickened the dusty atmosphere; not only was the village well represented among the audience, but contingents were present from outlying parishes and hamlets. The roadway was blocked with various vehicles, from a couple of motor-cars down to donkey-carts; bicycles were propped against the building, and in the porch was a collection of lanterns, umbrellas and goloshes, the property of those who had arrived on foot from any distance, seeing that, though mid-summer, the night was threatening and dark.

The attraction was an address to be delivered by a representative of a well-known Religious Society, and the tall, thin stranger who took his place beside the chairman (the