

**A FREE LANCE: BEING
SHORT PARAGRAPHS AND
DETACHED PAGES FROM
AN AUTHOR'S NOTE BOOK**

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A Free Lance: Being Short Paragraphs and Detached Pages from an Author's Note Book by
Frederic Rowland Marvin

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FREDERIC ROWLAND MARVIN

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BY

FREDERIC ROWLAND MARVIN

Away with that famed sentence Know thyself!
'Tis not well put; Know others, to my thinking,
Is a more apt and profitable maxim.

--Masonius.



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TO
MY BELOVED WIFE
I DEDICATE THESE PAGES, BECAUSE
ALL THAT IS GOOD IN THEM, AND MUCH OF
WHATEVER IS GOOD IN THEIR AUTHOR
COMES OF HER TENDER AND PURE
LOVE, AND IS DUE TO HER
DEAR COMPANIONSHIP

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A valiant knight whose lance doth
pierce the follies of the world.

—*Archæologia*





PREFATORY NOTE

A WRITER has always on his table, or concealed in one or more of its drawers, literary material that has failed of finding a place in any of his books. As time passes the material increases in quantity; and sometimes, because of occasional revisions, it improves in character and becomes more worthy of preservation. What shall he do with it? He may be moved by some inward impulse to cast it all into the fire. Yet not a few of those pages have cost him labor; and some of them may possess a modicum of interest for the general reader. Why should not the author, after winnowing from the grain so much of the chaff as it may be possible thus to separate from the ripe grain, gather what remains of the corn into some such granary as a book like this provides? The author has expressed his opinions with freedom and frankness, and he believes there are in this world many candid men and women who will welcome his frankness even though they may, in some cases, dissent from the conclusions arrived at. Only to such readers is this book addressed.

F. R. M.