ABANDONING AN ADOPTED FARM

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Abandoning an Adopted Farm by Kate Sanborn

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KATE SANBORN

ABANDONING AN ADOPTED FARM

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Abandoning An Adopted Farm

BY

KATE SANBORN AUTHOR OF WIT OF WOMEN; NOME PICTURES OF ENCLISH FORTS; VANITY AND INSANITY, SHADOWS OF CHRIS; SUNSHINE AND RAINSOW CALENDARS; ADOPTING AN ABANDONED FARM; A TAUTHREYL WOMAN IN SOUTHBEEN CALIFORNIA; ETC.



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CHAPTER I.

TRUTHFUL SKETCHES.

"There is nothing so improbable as truth." EDITE BROWER.

YES, strange as it may seem, I am forced by the pressure of circumstances, to leave the dearly-beloved Farm of my Adoption; but not from caprice or lack of interest (or capital) in this place, now reclaimed and beautified. Determined always to see the sunny side, I rejoice in the prospect of more land to till—land that is now my own—more complete solitude, and comparative freedom from the inquisitiveness and persistence of passers-

 by, tramps, small boys with kleptomaniac tendencies, agents, peddlers, bores of all kinds, the insistent shriek of the rushing

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locomotive, and strangers from near and far who insist on seeing my hens!

A former cook, corpulent Bessie, used to exclaim, "Heaven helping me, I'll never leave the bandaged farm!" But a thriving Dutchman courted her, and appropriated her ample proportions, raising her to a higher social position; for, as his father said at the wedding: "My son has a beautiful brofession. He is a blumber." So, in spite of her fixed intentions, she is now only a fat memory.

She was a devout Catholic, almost too devout. In the midst of preparations for a dinner for city guests, who were waiting, I have noticed her in a corner murmuring prayers over her beads; and when a friend cut his finger and ejaculated a hasty "O Lord!" she raised her eyes, folded her hands and responded reverently, "Amen!"

She was always making genuine Irish bulls, as when she said, on hearing me complain of my immense grain bills, "If I were you, Miss, I wouldn't keep any cows this winter—but the horse."

But she has gone with her warm heart,

Ernthful Sketches.

good-natured face, and the piano legs she was proud to display in a clumsy dance of her own invention, with its singing accompaniment of "Idely, idely, idely, ide."

I also supposed I should live and die right here, and I too must depart.

The general air of suspicion with which the statements in my book are received, and the fact that it is classed as "Fiction" in public libraries, are disheartening. I judge that the plain everyday, out-andout truth is so seldom told that it is not easily recognized.

A novelist has assured me that where he made up plots of the most startling kinds, the reviewers and readers pronounced them true to Nature and life, an absolute reproduction of the secrets and mysteries, bliss and agonies of love or passion. But where he ventured to tell of events which had really happened, hearts that had truly broken, every one had condemned his work as unnatural, unreal, improbable, impossible.

Another writes : " My difficulty has been, when I looked about me for suggestive