

**THREE FRESHMEN:
RUTH, FRAN
AND NATHALIE**

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Three Freshmen: Ruth, Fran and Nathalie by Jessie Anderson Chase

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JESSIE ANDERSON CHASE

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RUTH, FRAN AND NATHALIE
BY JESSIE ANDERSON CHASE



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THREE FRESHMEN

CHAPTER I

PREPARATIONS

The fragrant thoughts and the purest resolutions of your youth.—*Emerson.*

FROM the day that Ruth Chittenden lay in her cradle, the most interesting of Christmas presents to a large family of doting aunts and uncles, to say nothing of her own particular father and mother, down to the day of her eighteenth "anniversary," there had been at least twenty opinions as to what should be done with her at each momentous step of her girl life. But Aunt Bonnie Ray, with her proverbs and saws, had carried her points from first to last. It was Aunt Bonnie that embroidered on her baby blanket the lines—

He that lay in a manger
Will guard thee from danger,
Our dear little stranger !

It was Aunt Bonnie that made her first table bib, when she came to breakfast and sat in a high chair about a hundred years older than herself; and on this bib was the motto—

Toddlekins, eat, so your nose will grow !
Toddlekins, eat, for we love you so.

And later on it was Aunt Bonnie that brought a dozen quotations, maxims and mottoes to bear to prove that Ruth must go to college.

This aroused a tremendous war in the clan. Certain uncles and aunts saw in the scheme a sure way to turn "our modest Ruth" into that dreaded creature, a new woman. Uncle Jack said the child was better off in her own quiet, old-fashioned home, but Aunt Bonnie Ray replied that home-keeping youths have homely wits, and that he would be the last to want Ruth to grow up with anything homely about her. Aunt Sarah was sure