

**A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LIFE  
OF CHARLES ALGERNON SIDNEY  
VIVIAN, FOUNDER OF  
THE ORDER OF ELKS: TOGETHER WITH  
ANECDOTES AND REMINISCENCES OF  
HIS WORK AND TRAVELS**

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A Biographical Sketch of the Life of Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian, Founder of the Order of Elks: Together with Anecdotes and Reminiscences of His Work and Travels by Imogen Holbrook Vivian

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**IMOGEN HOLBROOK VIVIAN**

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CHARLES ALGERNON SIDNEY VIVIAN,  
The founder of the "Jolly Corks" which organization  
afterward became the Benevolent and Protective  
Order of Elks, with Vivian at its head.  
Taken in San Francisco at the  
age of twenty-nine.

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BY

IMOGEN HOLBROOK VIVIAN



SAN FRANCISCO  
THE WHITAKER & RAY COMPANY  
INCORPORATED  
1903

TO  
THE ELKS

*Whose glorious mission is to cheer  
and uplift, this little volume  
is respectfully dedicated.*





## Preface

It having been suggested to me by friends quite frequently that a little volume containing a biographical sketch of Charles Vivian, the founder of the great Order of Elks, including many incidents and reminiscences of travel, written by his widow and constant companion during the last several years of his life, would be acceptable and interesting to many, I have decided to make this humble effort with the object of perpetuating the memory of one whose faults have long since faded into the dim vista of forgetfulness; whose many virtues stand out in bold relief. Hoping, not without many misgivings, that this little book will meet with some recognition and approval by members of the Order and be of use to some extent in giving them a clearer insight into the true character and inner life of the originator.

A great majority, I am sure, know very little of the man who in 1867 first conceived the idea of organizing a society to promote, protect and enhance the welfare and happiness of each other.

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## Preface.

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What nobler, loftier sentiment than that contained in these few words from the original constitution, the very essence embodied in the life and teachings of that divine nobility whose mortal passing illumined this earth with the glorious light of love nearly two thousand years ago, and whose benign and blessed influence has steadily increased with each succeeding century. Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, Fidelity—what a grand and solid foundation to build upon. A rock impervious alike to the world's fiercest storms and all the ever-shifting sands of time, and how well has it fulfilled its destiny up to the present day. What glorious possibilities for the future! "*Vestigia nulla retrosum*," but excelsior is the watchword blazoned in letters of living truth upon the banners of this great and noble Order.

With these few words of preface I launch this frail bark, trusting it will not be stranded upon the shore of a too stern and unfriendly criticism, but serve the purpose, in a way, of fulfilling the sincere desire of the writer.