# THE EVOLUTION OF A TEACHER

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The evolution of a teacher by Ella Gilbert Ives

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### **ELLA GILBERT IVES**

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## THE EVOLUTION OF A TEACHER

BY ELLA GILBERT IVES



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### TO MY COMRADES

IN A CALLING WIDE AS THE WORLD
AND HIGH AS HEAVEN,
I OPEN MY HEART
AND

DEDICATE MY BOOK

To climb and climb, yet never to attain,
Is in itself an ecstasy of pain
Than joy more sweet. To seek the
shining goal,
The keenest rapture of a climbing soul.

#### PREFACE

This book is itself an evolution, beginning from the chance word of a friendly editor,—"Tell us how a teacher is made." That seed-thought germinated, and in due time five sketches, covering as many decades of a teacher's life, appeared in the Boston Evening Transcript. One of them caught the eye of a New York publisher who saw in the text the potential "Scripture of a life." The writer's part has been to watch the seed grow and to let in upon it the soft airs of memory and the dews of life's afternoon. If now and then she suffered her fancy to tamper with facts, instantly she was aware of a tinsel ornament fastened to her little plant.

As it stands, shorn of artificial adornment, it is at least alive and rooted in native soil. If it is humbly fragrant, as with a whiff of mignonette from the old garden or a breath of sweet clover from the highway; above all, if in sincerity it is like the homely herb that sweetens when crushed, it will carry its own raison

d'être.

