

**ALL THE YEAR
WITH NATURE**

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All the year with nature by P. Anderson Graham

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P. ANDERSON GRAHAM

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BY

P. ANDERSON GRAHAM

LONDON

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1893

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W. E. HENLEY

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L. A. G.

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SPRING

BIRDS-NESTING

MY earliest memory of birds-nesting is that of having been lifted up, while yet wearing a pinafore, to see the sky-blue eggs of a hedge-sparrow that had built among the black hawthorns by the roadside. It was before their first grey buds had developed into green, or the violet had flowered at their roots. The cock bird sat on the top rail of a gate and girded at us fiercely in his thin little voice, and his mate fluttered uneasily to and fro along the fence. To this day 'Billy's' artless note is as welcome as the song of lark or nightingale. But a time soon came for rambling in search of others.

One favourite field (who does not remember the like?) was a true birds-nester's paradise. On the north it was sheltered by a strip of tall beech and ash. For two hundred yards of fresh grass there was a precipitous slope to a great hedge, at whose foot the