

THREE VILLAGES

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Three villages by W. D. Howells

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BY

W. D. HOWELLS

AUTHOR OF

"A MODERN INSTANCE," "DR. BREEN'S PRACTICE," ETC.



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CONTENTS.

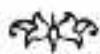


	PAGE
LEXINGTON	11
SHIRLEY	69
GNADENHÜTTEN	117





LEXINGTON.





LEXINGTON.¹



THE Bostonian spring being more than usually embittered against mankind the year 1882, we left our quarters in town very early, and went to pass the month of May in the pretty and historic village of Lexington. It lies ten or twelve miles inland; it is not only a little beyond the worst of the east wind, but is just a little too far from Boston to be strictly suburban in aspect; and thanks chiefly to an absence of water-power (a clear brown brook, that you may anywhere jump across, idles through the pastures unmolested by a mill-wheel), Lexington has not yet been overtaken by the unpicturesque prosperity which has befallen so many New England villages.

¹ Reprinted from "Longman's (London) Magazine."