

DREAMS AND MEMORIES

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Dreams and memories by George McLean Harper

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GEORGE MCLEAN HARPER

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AND MEMORIES**

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BY

GEORGE McLEAN HARPER

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH IN PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

AUTHOR OF "JOHN MORLEY AND OTHER ESSAYS,"

AND "WILLIAM WORDSWORTH, HIS LIFE,
WORKS, AND INFLUENCE"

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THE
ALGEBRA



*This volume of adventures
grave and gay
I dedicate to my daughter Isabel
in memory of our wanderings
in her blithe childhood.*

505443

Heart of Ayrshire and New Wine in an Old Bottle are reprinted from *Scribner's Magazine*, and With Romeo and Little Nannie from the *Nassau Literary Magazine*.

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DREAMS AND MEMORIES

HEART OF AYRSHIRE

I remember, when I was a child, snatching a fearful joy from surreptitious glimpses of a wicked picture in a copy of Burns belonging to my grandfather, who was a minister. I would loiter in his library after reciting my Latin to this grave and venerable man, and affect an interest in other books, Rutherford's "Letters," perhaps, or Turretini's "Body of Divinity," till I thought I might venture a glance into the big "Burns." The print, to which I then greedily turned, raised in my breast certain delicious points of casuistry. For it illustrated, with no sparing of details as to horns and cloven hoofs or any other requisite, the breathless jig which Burns composed extempore at a meeting of gaugers, "The Deil's awa wi' the Exciseman"—an improper picture for me to look at, I well knew, and how much worse, then, for a minister to possess! And, moreover, a Scotch minister, Scotchmen being regarded in our village as more pious than other people. On the other hand, being a Scotchman, was it not fitting that he should honour the great poet? And was it not well, indeed, that a minister should have a hu-