

**RECOLLECTIONS AND INCIDENTS OF A
LIFETIME: OR, MEN AND THINGS I HAVE
SEEN: IN A SERIES
OF FAMILIAR LETTERS TO A FRIEND,
HISTORICAL, AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL,
ANECDOTAL AND DESCRIPTIVE**

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Recollections and Incidents of a Lifetime: Or, Men and Things I Have Seen: In a Series of Familiar Letters to a Friend, Historical, Autobiographical, Anecdotal and Descriptive by Philander Stevens

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PHILANDER STEVENS

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X Solid
the
with
Curtis
P. W. W.
W. W. W.

X Cannon
1896

F. M. X
M. R. B. C.
B. S. D. J.

To my dear grand daughter
Marion S. Bristow

with ^{the} compliments of
Philander Stevens
June 1896



Very Truly Yours
Philander Stevens

RECOLLECTIONS
AND
INCIDENTS of a LIFETIME;
OR,
Men and Things I Have Seen.

*In a Series of Familiar Letters
to a Friend.*

Historical, Autobiographical, Anecdotal
and Descriptive.

By PHILANDER STEVENS.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
1886.

To the memory of my sainted wife,
the loved companion
for more than fifty years in my life's journey,
is this simple narrative
most affectionately dedicated by her
sorrowing husband.

INTRODUCTORY.

LETTER I.

MY DEAR H.—

In your last letter, received a few days since, you referred to some incidents of my life which I had related, and expressed a desire to know still further of the incidents and events of my long and busy life, already prolonged beyond the allotted three score and ten years.

I have, therefore, actually determined upon carrying out your suggestion to write a memoir of my life and times—a sort of personal narrative.

The only thing that makes me hesitate is a fear that an autobiography must essentially be a personal history, and would be very likely to be flavored with egotism, a sentiment I detest. I shall, however, try to divest this simple history of the air of egotism as far as I can do so, and, perhaps, the best form in which I can give the details will be in the form of letters to you ; thus telling a simple story, in a simple way, to an old and very dear friend