

SALLY ANN'S EXPERIENCE

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Sally Ann's Experience by Eliza Calvert Hall

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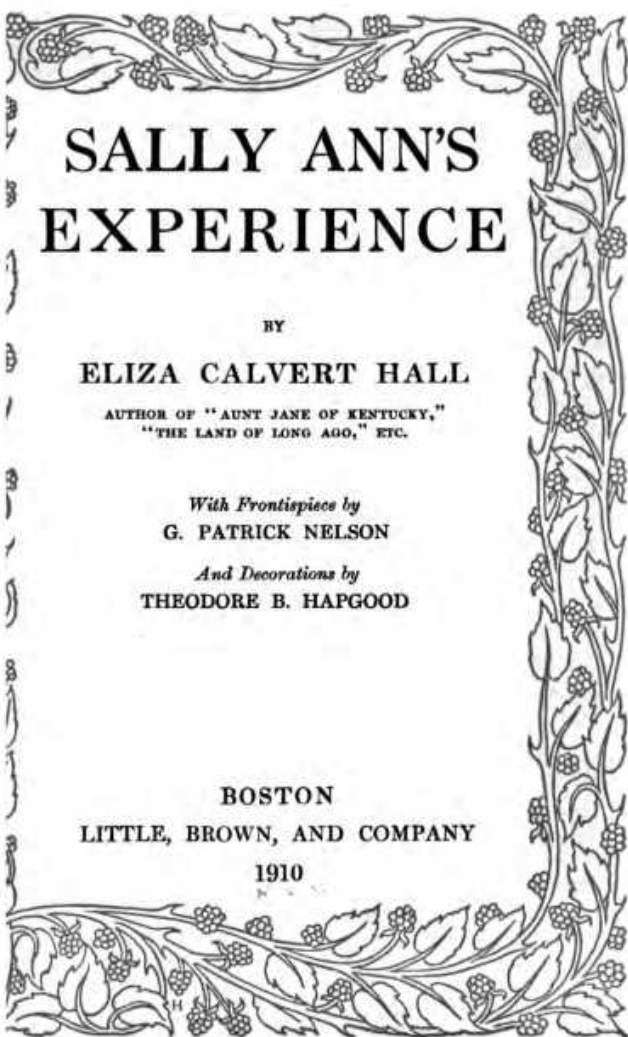
ELIZA CALVERT HALL

**SALLY ANN'S
EXPERIENCE**



"So he gets up, easy-like, with his red bandanna to his mouth,
and starts out."

Frontispiece. See page 25.



SALLY ANN'S EXPERIENCE

BY
ELIZA CALVERT HALL

AUTHOR OF "AUNT JANE OF KENTUCKY,"
"THE LAND OF LONG AGO," ETC.

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G. PATRICK NELSON

And Decorations by
THEODORE B. HAPGOOD

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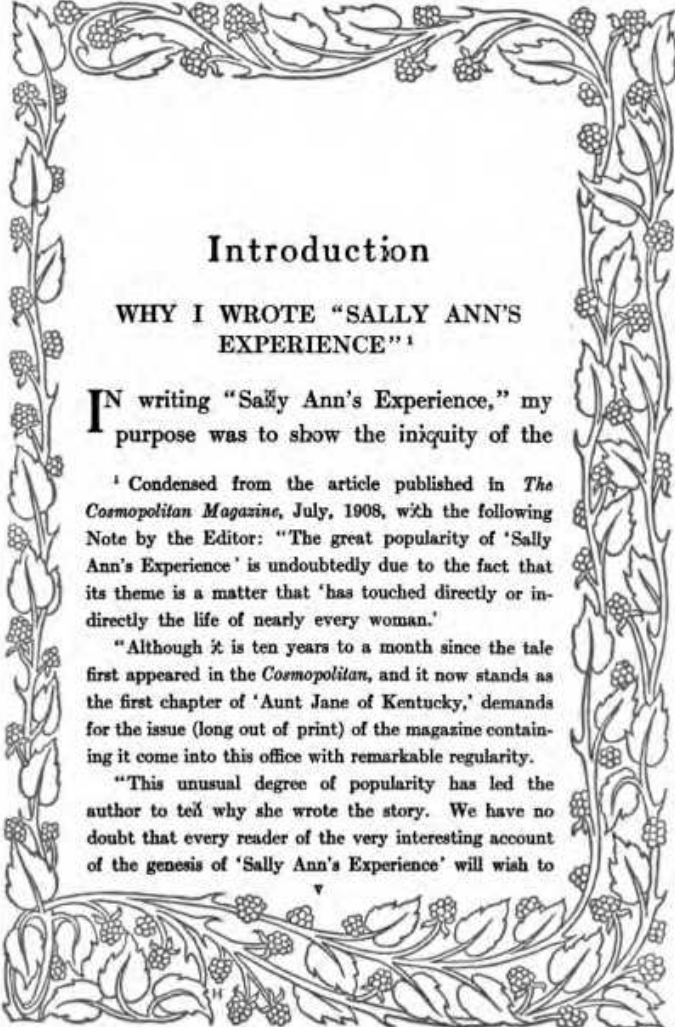
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Introduction

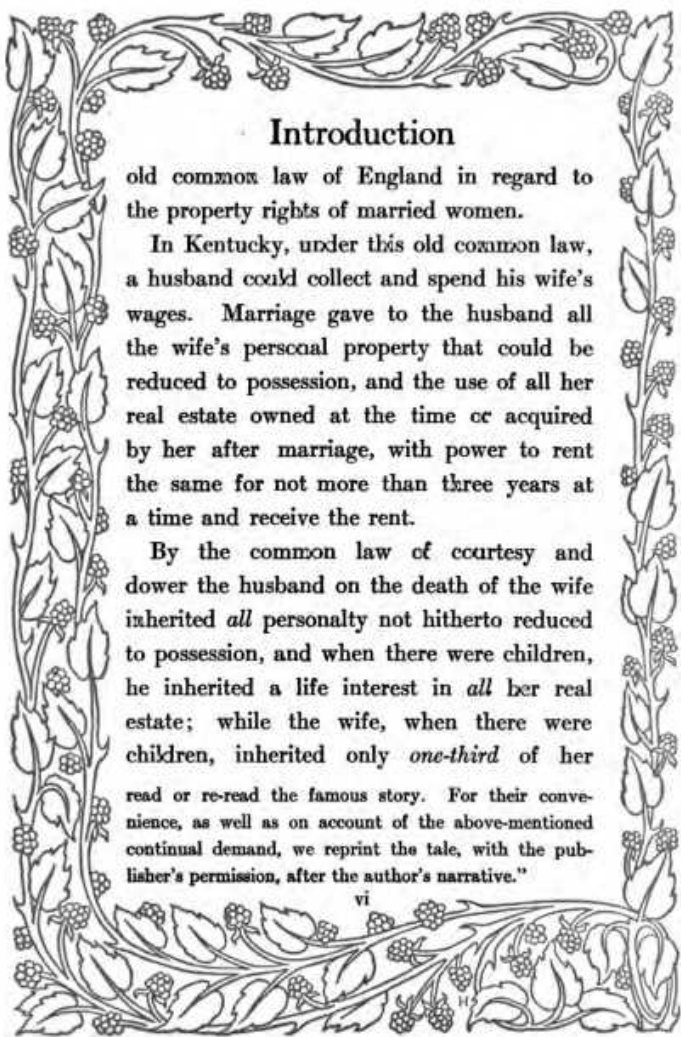
WHY I WROTE "SALLY ANN'S EXPERIENCE"¹

IN writing "Sally Ann's Experience," my purpose was to show the iniquity of the

¹ Condensed from the article published in *The Cosmopolitan Magazine*, July, 1908, with the following Note by the Editor: "The great popularity of 'Sally Ann's Experience' is undoubtedly due to the fact that its theme is a matter that 'has touched directly or indirectly the life of nearly every woman.'

"Although it is ten years to a month since the tale first appeared in the *Cosmopolitan*, and it now stands as the first chapter of 'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' demands for the issue (long out of print) of the magazine containing it come into this office with remarkable regularity.

"This unusual degree of popularity has led the author to tell why she wrote the story. We have no doubt that every reader of the very interesting account of the genesis of 'Sally Ann's Experience' will wish to

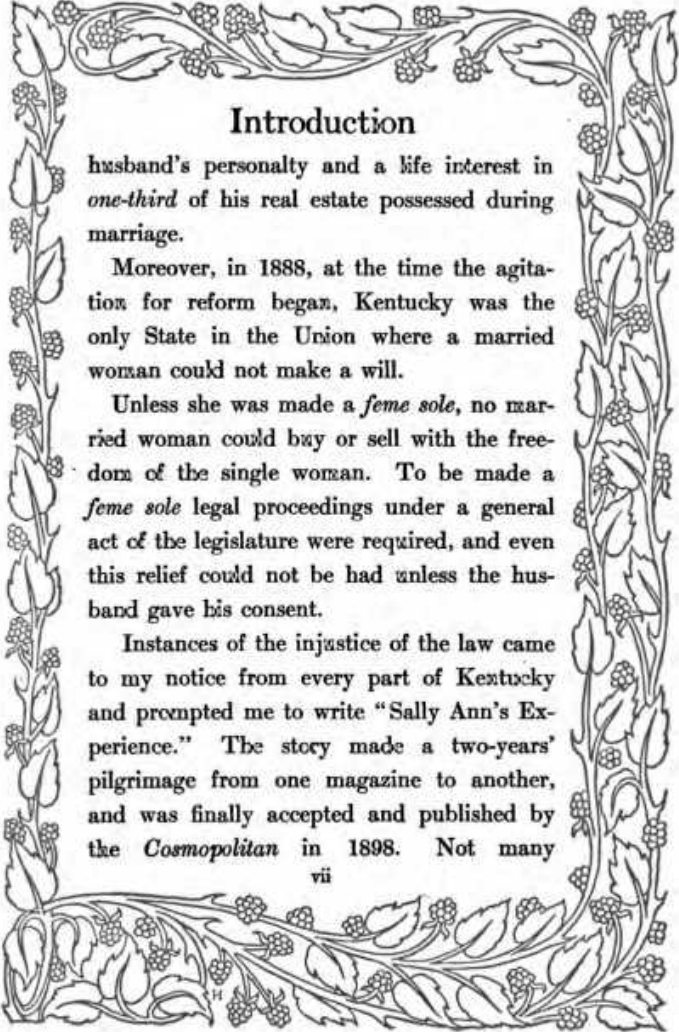


Introduction

old common law of England in regard to the property rights of married women.

In Kentucky, under this old common law, a husband could collect and spend his wife's wages. Marriage gave to the husband all the wife's personal property that could be reduced to possession, and the use of all her real estate owned at the time or acquired by her after marriage, with power to rent the same for not more than three years at a time and receive the rent.

By the common law of courtesy and dower the husband on the death of the wife inherited *all* personalty not hitherto reduced to possession, and when there were children, he inherited a life interest in *all* her real estate; while the wife, when there were children, inherited only *one-third* of her read or re-read the famous story. For their convenience, as well as on account of the above-mentioned continual demand, we reprint the tale, with the publisher's permission, after the author's narrative."



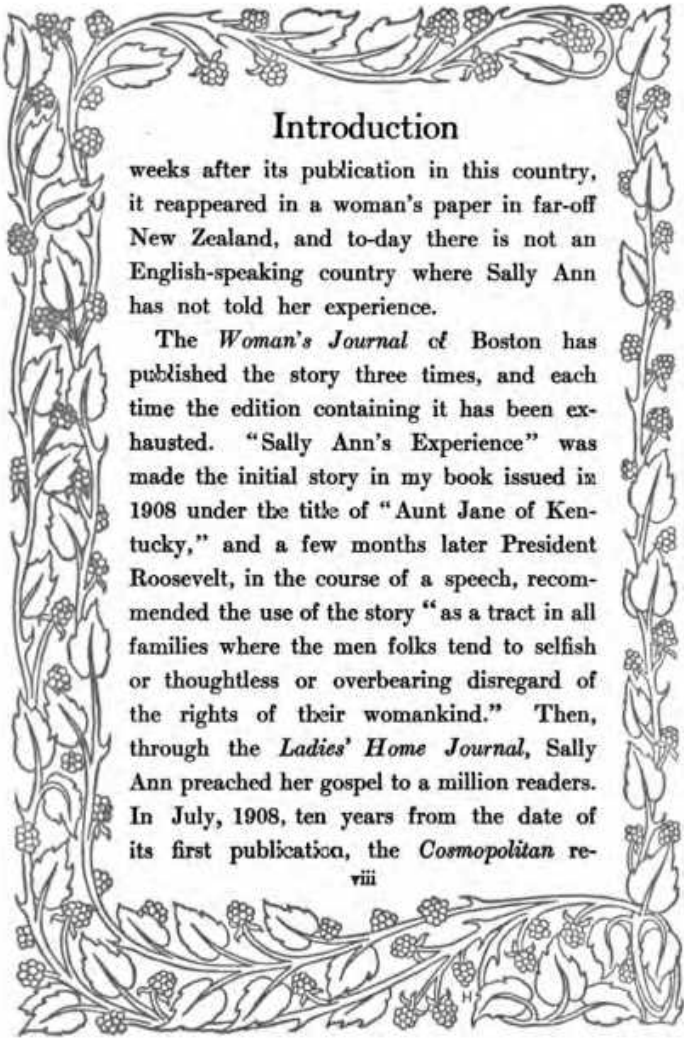
Introduction

husband's personalty and a life interest in *one-third* of his real estate possessed during marriage.

Moreover, in 1888, at the time the agitation for reform began, Kentucky was the only State in the Union where a married woman could not make a will.

Unless she was made a *feme sole*, no married woman could buy or sell with the freedom of the single woman. To be made a *feme sole* legal proceedings under a general act of the legislature were required, and even this relief could not be had unless the husband gave his consent.

Instances of the injustice of the law came to my notice from every part of Kentucky and prompted me to write "Sally Ann's Experience." The story made a two-years' pilgrimage from one magazine to another, and was finally accepted and published by the *Cosmopolitan* in 1898. Not many

A decorative border of grapevines with leaves and clusters of grapes surrounds the text. The border is symmetrical and frames the central content.

Introduction

weeks after its publication in this country, it reappeared in a woman's paper in far-off New Zealand, and to-day there is not an English-speaking country where Sally Ann has not told her experience.

The *Woman's Journal* of Boston has published the story three times, and each time the edition containing it has been exhausted. "Sally Ann's Experience" was made the initial story in my book issued in 1908 under the title of "Aunt Jane of Kentucky," and a few months later President Roosevelt, in the course of a speech, recommended the use of the story "as a tract in all families where the men folks tend to selfish or thoughtless or overbearing disregard of the rights of their womankind." Then, through the *Ladies' Home Journal*, Sally Ann preached her gospel to a million readers. In July, 1908, ten years from the date of its first publication, the *Cosmopolitan* re-