

LIFE IN THE GREENWOOD

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Life in the greenwood by Marion Florence Lansing & Charles Copeland

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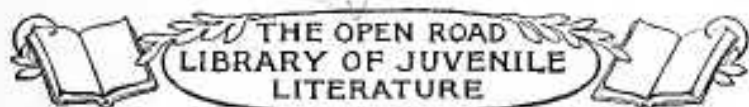
MARION FLORENCE LANSING & CHARLES COPELAND

LIFE IN THE GREENWOOD



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"Afoot and light-hearted
I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world
before me"



LIFE
IN THE GREENWOOD

ROBIN HOOD TALES

BY

MARION FLORENCE LANSING, M.A.

ILLUSTRATED BY

CHARLES COPELAND

GINN AND COMPANY
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MARION FLORENCE LANSING

RHYMES AND STORIES

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LIFE IN THE GREENWOOD

PAGE, ESQUIRE, AND KNIGHT

The Athenæum Press

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PREFACE

The "open road" of literature has brought us into the greenwood where we meet the merry men of Robin Hood's band and other picturesque outlaws. The spell of the greenwood falls upon us as it has upon English people since Robin Hood ballads became current in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. As the conditions of modern life grow more complex the charm of the free, out-of-door life in the forest becomes more rather than less. To portray this life and to show what a spell it cast over every one who came in contact with it, from king and knight to humblest yeoman, has been the aim of the present book.

An immense amount of Robin Hood and other literature has come down to us in the form of ballads in more or less archaic English, from which the tales must be selected and retold for children of to-day. From the many adventures of Robin and his band those have been chosen which best picture the greenwood life, — how it grew up, what qualities it developed in those who loved it, and what a merry, care-free, fascinating life it was. In his *Literature in the Elementary School* Porter Lander MacClintock of The University of Chicago says: "Most elementary

schools have found now the value of the Robin Hood legends. The bluff, open qualities, the effective activities, the wholesome objectivity of these activities, the breezy atmosphere with which the stories surround themselves, make them acceptable in many aspects." As against the misgivings of timid parents and teachers about the effect upon children of approval of these lawless "merry men," he says: "It needs but a word to transfer the emphasis from Robin Hood's outlawry to the cruel and unjust laws against which he stood; to keep to the front his generosity to his men, his tenderness toward those in trouble, his sense of personal honor, his readiness to accept and acknowledge a fair defeat, the loyalty of his men."

To keep the quaintness and picturesqueness of the old ballads the "king's English," which is the basis of our best modern usage, has been retained, and verse has been frequently interspersed. The artistic effect of each plot is brought out by presenting the best incidents in short stories with individual headings.

Like Martin Parker, who in 1632 published *A True Tale of Robin Hood*, the author would say,

"And I shall thinke my labour well
Bestow'd, to purpose good,
When 't shall be sayd that I did tell
Good tales of Robin Hood."

M. F. L.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
LIFE IN THE GREENWOOD	1
ROBIN HOOD AND LITTLE JOHN	6
RULES OF ROBIN HOOD'S MEN	17
ROBIN HOOD AND WILL SCARLET	20
ROBIN HOOD AND THE KNIGHT	26
ROBIN HOOD AND ALLIN-A-DALE	55
LITTLE JOHN AND THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM	61
THE SHOOTING MATCH IN NOTTINGHAM TOWN .	77
THE KING IN THE GREENWOOD	90
ADAM BELL, CLIM OF THE CLOUGH, AND WILLIAM OF CLOUDESLY	104
ROBIN IN THE GREENWOOD AGAIN	121
ROBIN HOOD AND THE BUTCHER	128
ROBIN HOOD AND THE WIDOW'S THREE SONS .	136
THE JOLLY PINDER OF WAKEFIELD	148
ROBIN'S MEN A-BEGGING	151
ROBIN HOOD IN TOWN	158
ROBIN HOOD'S DEATH	169
EPILOGUE	176
APPENDIX	177



Merry it is in the green forest,
Among the leaves so green,
Where that men walk both east and west
With bows and arrows keen.