

**BLUE CLOTH  
BOOKS. THE MAID  
HE MARRIED**

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Blue cloth books. The maid he married by Harriet Prescott Spofford

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**HARRIET PRESCOTT SPOFFORD**

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BLUE CLOTH BOOKS



THE MAID HE MARRIED

## BLUE CLOTH BOOKS



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The lady that sings,

The  
Maid He Married

BY  
Harriet Prescott Spofford



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# The Maid He Married



## I

One world is as large as another to those that are in it, and events of the smallest nature, if they are close enough to the eye, can shut off the great sun himself.

It was not, however, by any means a small event that had made a stir in Mrs. Grey's family. It was one with far-reaching results. For Josephine's Aunt Josephine had committed the inconceivable folly of marrying again. Inconceivable because, as Mrs. Grey said, a woman past forty could not expect and need not pretend love, especially for a person she did not know six weeks ago; and she had already sufficient income for the narrow village life, and was not

driven to the crime, as her sister phrased it, through want.

But Josephine's aunt did not look at the affair at all in that light. She had been a good wife to the shop-keeping deacon, who, if he filled her small early ideal, had, on the whole, been a disappointment to her capacity for growth. She had saved and spared with him for years, years in which, however, she had always pitched her housekeeping on a somewhat higher key than that of any one else in the place; where Dr. Madden, and the minister had always found her companionable. But, nevertheless, she was dissatisfied. She had desired something beyond this, a different life; one, at any rate, that could better meet her instinct for the beautiful, her fancy for luxury. The monotony of the years, the poverty of thought and of occurrence were stupefying. She felt herself sinking to the level of an animal