

**WIDOW WINPENNY'S
WATCHWORD
(KNAPSACK SERIES)**

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Widow Winpenny's Watchword (Knapsack Series) by J. Jackson Wray

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J. JACKSON WRAY

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"They met Widow Winpenny and little Gracie Staley, each of them carrying a bundle of dead sticks."—Page 62.

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WATCHWORD.

(KNAPSACK SERIES.)

BY

J. JACKSON WRAY,

AUTHOR OF

"NESTLETON MAGNA," "MATTHEW BELLOWDEW,"
"LIGHT FROM THE OLD LAMP," "HONEST JOHN STALLIBRASS,"
"THE MAN WITH THE KNAPSACK," ETC. ETC. ETC.

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WIDOW WINPENNY'S WATCHWORD.

CHAPTER I.

"POOR WIDOW WINPENNY!"

It would not be an easy task to find a prettier or more attractive village than Cherry-bridge. It is possible that you may find its equal, for bonnie villages are by no means rare in this bonnie island, but its superior would be difficult to discover. Of course I may be a little prejudiced in its favour, seeing that I was born within sound of the sweet Cherry-bridge bells, and with little wee fingers used to gather the dainty cowslips in Cherry-bridge Park.

Cherry-bridge Park and Cherry-bridge Hall were quite notable names in the northern county from which I hail, and so was Cherry-bridge Priory, and for that matter so was Cherry-bridge Woods, to which people came from far and near for holiday

jaunts and picnics: and every one of those who came, would endorse, I'll warrant, my opening sentence, that it would not be an easy task to find a prettier or more attractive village than Cherry-bridge.

In this village there lived, some few years ago, a little and rather elderly woman known as the Widow Winpenny. On second thoughts, I don't think it will do to say 'some few years.' I have been counting up the years that have passed since the time of which I speak, and I am amazed to find how many fleeting seasons have come and gone.

Of all the thorough-paced racers that I ever heard or read of, there are none so swift of foot as is Father Time. He runs so silently, and he runs so rapidly, that I am continually putting the Past nearer to the Present than it actually is. I am afraid that I am equally in danger of putting the Future too far from the Present; but I will not if I can help it, or it may chance to come upon me as a swift surprise. 'To-morrow' is a word on which one needs to keep a sharp watch; it has such a magical fashion of getting itself transformed into 'To-day!'

Widow Winpenny lived in a small, tidy-looking thatched cottage in the outskirts of the village,