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THE LOST STRADIVARIUS



THE  
LOST STRADIVARIUS

BY  
J. MEADE FALKNER

"A tale out of season is as music in mourning"  
ECCLESIASTICUS xxii, 6



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1896

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*LETTER from Miss SOPHIA MALTRAVERS to  
her Nephew, Sir EDWARD MALTRAVERS,  
then a Student at Christ Church, Oxford.*

*13 Pouncefort Buildings, Bath,  
Oct. 21, 1867.*

*MY DEAR EDWARD,*

*It was your late father's dying request that certain events which occurred in his last years should be communicated to you on your coming of age. I have reduced them to writing partly from my own recollection, which is, alas! still too vivid, and partly with the aid of notes taken at the time of my brother's death. As you are now of full age, I submit the narrative to you. Much of it has necessarily been exceedingly painful to me to write, but at the same time I feel it is better that you should hear the truth from me than garbled stories from others who did not love your father as I did.*

*Your loving Aunt,*

*SOPHIA MALTRAVERS.*

*To Sir Edward Maltravers, Bart.*



Figure 1. Relationship between the number of children and the number of children who are not in school.



Figure 2. Relationship between the number of children and the number of children who are in school.

## THE LOST STRADIVARIUS.

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### MISS SOPHIA MALTRAVERS' STORY.

#### CHAPTER I.

YOUR father, John Maltravers, was born in 1820 at Worth, and succeeded his father and mine, who died when we were still young children. John was sent to Eton in due course, and in 1839, when he was nineteen years of age, it was determined that he should go to Oxford. It was intended at first to enter him at Christ Church; but Dr. Sarsdell, who visited us at Worth in the summer of 1839, persuaded Mr. Thoresby, our guardian, to send him instead to Magdalen Hall. Dr. Sarsdell was himself Principal of that institution, and represented that John, who then exhibited some symptoms of delicacy, would meet with more personal attention under his care than he could hope to do in so large a college as Christ Church. Mr. Thores-