

THE BARTON EXPERIMENT

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649370757

The Barton experiment by John Habberton

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JOHN HABBERTON

**THE BARTON
EXPERIMENT**

THE
BARTON EXPERIMENT

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

BY THE AUTHOR OF "HELEN'S BABIES"

John H. Barton

NEW YORK
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
182 FIFTH AVENUE
1877

VOYAGE
ADRIATICO

Copyright
By C. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
1876

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P R E F A C E .

THIS book is not offered to the public as a finished romance, or even as an attempt at one; the persons who appear on its pages are not only not those who inspire pretty stories, but they are so literally the representatives of individuals who have lived that they cannot well be separated from their natural surroundings. It has seemed to the author that if American people could behold some of the men who have astonished themselves and others by their success as reformers, individual effort would not be so rare in communities where organization is not so easily effected, and where unfortunates are ruined in the midst of their neighbors, while organization is being hoped for. It is more than possible, too, that the accepted business principle that the pocket is the source of power, is not as clearly recognized as it should be in reform movements, and that the struggles of some of the

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characters outlined herein may throw some light upon this unwelcome but absolute fact.

The ideal reformer, the man of great principles and eloquent arguments, fails to appear in these pages, not because of any doubts as to his existence, but because his is a mental condition to which men attain without much stimulus from without, while it need not be feared that in the direction of individual effort and self-denial, the greatest amount of suggestion will ever urge any one too far.

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THE BARTON EXPERIMENT.

CHAPTER I.

REFORMERS AT WHITE HEAT.

LONG and loud rang all the church bells of Barton on a certain summer evening twenty years ago. It was not a Sunday evening, for during an accidental lull there was heard, afar off yet distinctly, the unsanctified notes of the mail-carrier's horn. And yet the doors of the village stores, which usually stood invitingly open until far into the night, were now tightly closed, while the patrons of the several drinking-shops of Barton congregated quietly within the walls of their respective sources of inspiration, instead of forming, as was their usual wont, lively groups on the sidewalk.

The truth was, Barton was about to indulge in a