

**SONS OF  
STRENGTH: KANSAS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649388776

Sons of strength: Kansas by William R. Lighton

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**WILLIAM R. LIGHTON**

**SONS OF  
STRENGTH: KANSAS**



Historical Series

SONS OF STRENGTH

KANSAS

*By*

WILLIAM R. LIGHTON



New York  
Doubleday, Page & Company  
1906

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To  
Mrs  
L. G. S.

*To  
my three women-folks,  
My Mother, my Wife and my little Daughter,  
whose love has inspired all that is  
good in me and in my work,  
this story is solemnly  
dedicated.*

WILLIAM R. LIGHTON.

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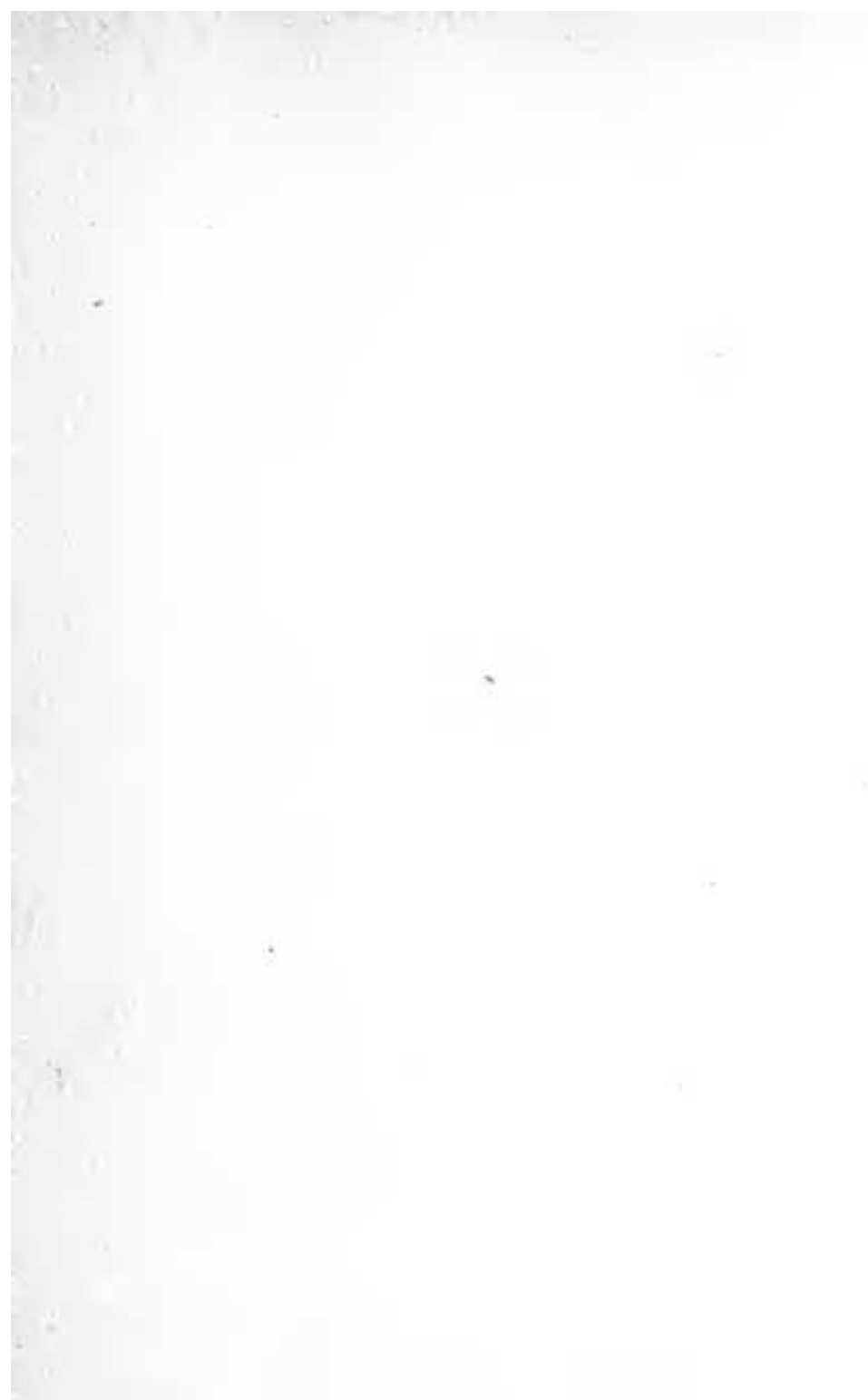
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. I REALIZE MYSELF . . . . .	1
II. I REALIZE A FEW OTHER THINGS . . . . .	10
III. TIME PASSES . . . . .	20
IV. A MAN . . . . .	29
V. OFF FOR KANSAS . . . . .	44
VI. ELIZABETH . . . . .	58
VII. SHADOWS CAST BEFORE . . . . .	66
VIII. ON THE NEW SOIL . . . . .	81
IX. ALL ON A SUMMER NIGHT . . . . .	93
X. THE SHADOW OF A GREAT ROCK . . . . .	106
XI. AN OLD FRIEND . . . . .	119
XII. HOME MAKING . . . . .	133
XIII. A NEW ELEMENT . . . . .	144
XIV. TO ARMS . . . . .	157
XV. OLD JOHN BROWN . . . . .	165
XVI. A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE . . . . .	180
XVII. A BETRAYAL AND A RESCUE . . . . .	193
XVIII. A REUNION AND A SEPARATION . . . . .	204
XIX. IN THE VALLEY OF SHADOWS . . . . .	215
XX. PEACE . . . . .	229



# SONS OF STRENGTH

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## CHAPTER I

### I REALIZE MYSELF

ALTHOUGH I have often tried to find my way, through the weary maze of days, years and events, back to the time of my first awakening from the dream-sleep of babyhood, I have always brought up sharply at one place, as against a blank wall,—a wall which may be scaled only in imagination. But imagination is at the best illusory and unsatisfying.

When I first realized myself, I was sitting upon dusty grass, by the side of a dusty road. A pair of stubby and dusty bare legs showed below the hem of my torn and faded calico dress. The evening sky, drooping wearily over me, was of a dusty yellow hue. A dusty canvas-covered emigrant wagon was moving