

A FURNACE OF EARTH

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A furnace of earth by Hallie Erminie Rives

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HALLIE ERMINIE RIVES

**A FURNACE
OF EARTH**

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BY

HALLIE ERMINIE RIVES

Author of "Smoking Flax," etc.

As silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

—DAVID.



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TO
R. W.

2061935

*Their first estate of joy they leave,
So pure, impassioned and elate,
And learn from Piety to grieve
Because their hearts are passionate.*

—The Revelation of St. Love the Divine.

THE ELEMENTS.

EARTH, AIR AND WATER.

ALONG the wavering path which followed the twisting summit of the cliffs toiled a little figure. His face was tanned, and from under a brown tangle of hair looked eyes blue and fearless.

He had walked a mile, and home lay a mile further, where white-painted cottages glowed against the close green velvet of the hills. The way ran staggeringly, and the boy was tired.

A group of ragged children tossed up their caps and shouted from the cluster of fishermen's huts set further back from the sea; he did not heed them, but seated himself on the tufted panic-grass and turned his eyes seaward. The hot sun slanted silver-bright flashes from the moody