

WORKS

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Works by Robert Louis Stevenson

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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

WORKS



THE

BY

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



A NEW IMPRESSION

WITH A FRONTISPIECE BY JOSEPH A. STRONG

LONDON

1906



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'Vixerunt nonnulli in agris, delectati re sua familiari. His idem propositum fuit quod regibus, ut ne qua re egerent, ne cui parent, libertate uterentur: cuius proprium est sic vivere ut velis.'—Cic., *De Off.*, I. xx.

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CONTENTS.

IN THE VALLEY :

	PAGE
I. Calistoga	13
II. The Petrified Forest ...	24
III. Napa Wine	34
IV. The Scot Abroad	48

WITH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL :

I. To Introduce Mr. Kelmar ...	59
II. First Impressions of Silverado	68
III. The Return	92

THE ACT OF SQUATTING	103
THE HUNTER'S FAMILY	127
THE SEA FOGS	153
THE TOLL HOUSE	171
A STARRY DRIVE	185
EPISODES IN THE STORY OF A MINE	197
TOILS AND PLEASURES	223

THE SILVERADO SQUATTERS.

THE scene of this little book is on a high mountain. There are, indeed, many higher; there are many of a nobler outline. It is no place of pilgrimage for the summary globe-trotter; but to one who lives upon its sides, Mount Saint Helena soon becomes a centre of interest. It is the Mont Blanc of one section of the Californian Coast Range, none of its near neighbours rising to one-half its altitude. It looks down on much green, intricate country. It feeds in the spring-time many splashing brooks. From its summit

you must have an excellent lesson of geography: seeing, to the south, San Francisco Bay, with Tamalpais on the one hand and Monte Diablo on the other; to the west and thirty miles away, the open ocean; eastward, across the cornlands and thick tule swamps of Sacramento Valley, to where the Central Pacific railroad begins to climb the sides of the Sierras; and northward, for what I know, the white head of Shasta looking down on Oregon. Three counties, Napa County, Lake County, and Sonoma County, march across its cliffy shoulders. Its naked peak stands nearly four thousand five hundred feet above the sea; its sides are fringed with forest; and the soil, where it is bare, glows warm with cinnabar.

Life in its shadow goes rustically