

**STORIES FROM THE  
LIPS OF THE TEACHER:  
RETOLD BY A DISCIPLE**

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Stories from the Lips of the Teacher: Retold by a Disciple by O. B. Frothingham

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**O. B. FROTHINGHAM**

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**STORIES**  
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FROM

**THE LIPS OF THE TEACHER.**

RETOLD BY A DISCIPLE.

[*Frederick Lewis*]



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Gift of Widener

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## P R E F A C E .

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**T**HOUGH this little volume is offered to children, the writer of it wishes to say a few words to those who are not children, to explain his purpose in offering it. He has long been persuaded that the parables of the New Testament were waiting to be presented in a new form to modern readers, and especially to young readers;—partly because long intimacy with them has impaired their vividness, rubbed off the bloom of their poetic beauty, and even rendered the mind insensible to the delicacy of their truth; partly because the use that has been made of them for doctrinal instruction has weakened very much their value as stories suggesting spiritual thoughts to the imagination, and has even perverted them from their original aim by associating them with theological opinions;

and more particularly because the more prosaic mind of the West finds a difficulty in supplying the details which are necessary to the completeness of the stories themselves.

The parables were spoken by an Oriental to Orientals, and were understood immediately, even in the brief form in which they were uttered. They were so imbued with the spirit of the people to whom they were addressed, so native to the soil, so fragrant with the aroma of the ground, so bright with the Eastern sunshine, so breezy with the Eastern air, — they were so full of local allusions, they reflected so clearly the manners and customs of the country and the period, that no amplification was necessary. The reciter could leave his auditors to fill up the empty spaces in the little narrative. A few words were sufficient to present a landscape, which we can picture to ourselves only by a diligent study of guide-books; to recall a scene which fancy alone can paint for us, and which fancy can do scarcely more than sketch; to suggest a familiar usage, which we become acquainted with through the medium of the antiquarian; to describe an event, for which