

**"THE CITY AND THE SEA",  
WITH OTHER CAMBRIDGE  
CONTRIBUTIONS, IN AID  
OF THE HOSPITAL FUND**

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"The City and the Sea", with Other Cambridge Contributions, in Aid of the Hospital Fund by  
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**HELEN LEAH REED**

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THE CITY AND THE SEA.





*"Life is joy, and love is power,  
Death all fetters doth unbind;  
Strength and wisdom only flower  
When we toil for all our kind."*

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.



"THE CITY AND THE SEA,"

With Other Cambridge Contributions,

IN AID OF

THE HOSPITAL FUND.

"See what they be; read them."

SHAKESPEARE.



CAMBRIDGE:  
JOHN WILSON AND SON,  
University Press.

1881.



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BY HELEN L. REED.





## PREFACE.

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FOR the welfare of every community certain institutions are needed, prominent among which are schools and religious societies. There is another institution whose necessity is not perhaps as widely recognized, yet whose mission is of great importance. This is the hospital, an outcome of Christianity; for though we do not exactly know in what way the ancients cared for their sick poor, the probability is that the work was done by individual Good Samaritans. The hospital, as known to us of modern times, undoubtedly had its origin among the Mediæval monks, who, whatever their faults, certainly showed a praiseworthy spirit of kindness toward the poor and afflicted.

Sickness and pain, hard enough to be borne by any, are aggravated a thousand times in the abodes of poverty; and it is, a cause for thankfulness that science and philanthropy have pointed out a way whereby we may do something to ease the sufferings of the unfortunate. Since the hospital, then, is an institution so needed in every large community, it is strange that Cambridge as yet has not one. For while the general prosperity of Cambridge is evident and acknowledged, her citizens cannot claim immunity from disease or poverty.

Painful accidents have occurred, will occur, among the many employed in her various industries; yet, no matter what the injury, the patient, if poor, must suffer much at home from inadequate care and the general discomfort of his surroundings. That Cambridge has no hospital must not be ascribed wholly to indifference on the part of her citizens. Doubtless many have thought that the Massachusetts General Hospital is able to answer all requirements made upon it by Cambridge patients. The facts, however, are otherwise. The Massachusetts General Hospital is always full.

Demands are constantly made upon it by country towns; and it seems unfair that Cambridge, so well able to take care of her own, should add to the perplexities of its managers.

The need of a Cambridge hospital, now obvious to all, was seen years ago by the few, — among them, Miss Emily E. Parsons, the history of whose work is too well known to require much mention here. Having given her time and strength to the service of the wounded during our late War, on her return she was not willing to sit idle when there was so much to be done for the poor and afflicted at home. Through her efforts, a suitable house was hired in Cambridgeport, and in the spring of 1867, for the first time in its history, Cambridge had a hospital. For various reasons it was closed at the end of one year, but reopened in another location in December, 1869, and continued its good work for two years more. During its brief existence the need of a permanent general hospital in Cambridge was clearly demonstrated, and it was with regret on the part of all who had watched its work that it was finally closed. Yet its work had been carried on under