

**PRODIGAL  
VILLAGE:  
A CHRISTMAS TALE**

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Prodigal Village: A Christmas Tale by Irving Bacheller

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**IRVING BACHELLER**

**PRODIGAL  
VILLAGE:  
A CHRISTMAS TALE**



**THE  
PRODIGAL VILLAGE**

A Christmas Tale

*By*

**IRVING BACHELLER**

*Author of*

**THE LIGHT IN THE CLEARING  
A MAN FOR THE AGES, Etc.**

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**THE PRODIGAL VILLAGE**



# THE PRODIGAL VILLAGE

## CHAPTER ONE

### WHICH INTRODUCES THE SHEPHERD OF THE BIRDS

THE day that Henry Smix met and embraced Gasoline Power and went up Main Street hand in hand with it is not yet forgotten. It was a hasty marriage, so to speak, and the results of it were truly deplorable. Their little journey produced an effect on the nerves and the remote future history of Bingville. They rushed at a group of citizens who were watching them, scattered it hither and thither, broke down a section of Mrs. Risley's picket fence and ran over a small boy. At the end of their brief misalli-