

**CALEB ABBOTT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649303915

Caleb Abbott by Dexter Vinton Pierce

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**DEXTER VINTON PIERCE**

# **CALEB ABBOTT**



Caleb Abbott



THE AUCTION.

# CALEB ABBOTT

BY

DEXTER VINTON PIERCE  
WILTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE



BOSTON  
FARRINGTON PRINTING COMPANY  
1904

PS  
3531  
I4  
C3

*Copyright, 1904*

BY DEXTER VINTON PIERCE

*Rights of Translation, Public Reading and  
Dramatization Reserved.*

Electrotyped and Printed by Farrington Printing Co.  
Boston, Mass., U. S. A.



## PREFACE

---

**I**N offering this story I wish to impress on the minds of the readers that this is a simple country story—a story of rural life which may be found not alone in New Hampshire, but in most of the country districts of New England. The characters are taken from life, the story is founded on fact, with some exaggerations, and if not sensational enough to suit some—or if not of sufficient length to suit others—remember it began where it did and ended where it has. The auction scene, the country hotel, the general store, and the town meeting are all characteristic of rural life. The gossip of the men around the country store is not overdrawn. The author has endeavored to make the story—to quote from a letter from Dr. Abbott to the author—“clean and sweet, mirthful and pathetic, fresh and savory, and as wholesome as the New Hampshire hills amidst which its scenes are cast.” If my readers can agree with him after reading its pages I shall be satisfied with my effort.

DEXTER VINTON PIERCE

“Maplehurst”

Wilton, N. H.

To my dear children  
this book  
is lovingly dedicated

# Caleb Abbott

## CHAPTER I.

### THE FLOOD.

"I think it safe till daylight, Seth, don't you?"

Thus spoke one of two men who for six long hours had been walking back and forth along the banks of New Hampshire's greatest stream,—the Merrimack. The rain, which had been falling continually for three days, still fell in torrents, and both men were drenched to the skin. They seemed to feel but little fatigue, yet anxiety was written on both their faces. One, Seth Arnold, was a typical New England Yankee, a slow-going, hard-working farmer, tall, lean, weather-beaten, withal shrewd and honest. The other, David Abbott, although himself a farmer, was a different type from Seth; he was shorter in stature, more solidly built, finer skinned; and he had laughing