

PREFACE BY THE EDITOR.

The story contained in the following pages had its first appearance in "The Cornhill Magazine" a number of years ago : but as on recent perusal, it commended itself to the present Editor as worthy of separate publication, it is here reproduced.

The story admirably sets forth the influence which one youth—possessed by a high and worthy ideal of life—will almost certainly exert over another who has no ideal at all ; and shows how a wild and lawless nature may be subdued unto higher and nobler purposes.

It is not Religion alone, as commonly understood, that works change for good in human hearts. The divine spirit and energy has many and diverse methods of operation ; and, not unfrequently, ways which to our narrow vision seem most unlikely to attain the end desired—are, by the spirit's power, made potent for good.

But whether one considers the moral of the story or not, no one can read it without perceiving the forcible charm of the writing, the nervous energy of the style, the clear, terse English idioms employed, and the fine power of portraiture and description here displayed.

For reasons that have seemed sufficient to him, the present Editor has somewhat condensed the story from its original length and form ; but all the main features of incident and language have been carefully preserved ; and the hope is entertained that it may be perused with interest and pleasure by all kind readers into whose hands it may come.

J. R.

Montreal, Xmas, 1895.