

INTRODUCTION.

The story of Ruth, apart wholly from its inspired character, is one of great beauty by reason of the exquisite simplicity of the record. The figure of Ruth stands in the foreground, a striking conception of womanly duty, illuminated by deep and lasting affection; Naomi reflects the experience of the sorrows of womanhood eating into a heart that still holds fast to its religious faith, whilst Orpah presents that picturesque kind of love which feels and weeps and midst tears fades out of vision. Mr. Smith, caught afresh by the beauty of this sacred story, as many have been caught before, has versified the text, and has succeeded in preserving the simplicity of the record, which is its chief beauty.

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