

BY THE AUTHOR OF "WINDYRIDGE."

THE WAY OF THE WINEPRESS

A New Novel by W. Riley, author of "Windyridge,"
now in its Tenth Thousand. 6/-

"The Way of the Winepress" is a study of a well-known but not well-understood type of Yorkshire business man. David Middleton is a spinner and manufacturer in the town of Broadbeck, having large premises there and two mills romantically situated in the country six or seven miles away. He is well-to-do, obstinate, autocratic; extremely generous on impulse; but with all the faults of his temperament well emphasised. A staunch Nonconformist, he holds bigoted views on religion and promptly penalises those whose views are at variance with his own. Such a man might be considered unattractive and even repellent, but his underlying kindness and quixotic generosity endear him even to those whom he irritates most. The theme of the story and its title are suggested by the problem that presents itself to him whether God will allow those who serve Him faithfully to come to want and ruin. His old friend and largest customer, Alderman Blunt, strongly asserts the contrary, but David is not so sure; and the question of his little niece, Mary, who has overheard part of the conversation, as to whether *he* could tread "The Way of the Winepress" continually haunts him. The probabilities of disaster seem remote enough, but the story brings out how his reckless adherence to old methods, obstinate refusal to change the character of his manufactured goods, and implicit confidence in the stability and integrity of his friend Blunt combine to compass his downfall. His strong faith in God, however, scarcely falters. The conversation amongst the villagers gives scope for the display of that homely portraiture in which Mr. Riley excels, and the descriptions of scenery, etc., give the same sense of "atmosphere" which is so marked a feature of the author's "Windyridge."

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