

CHAPTER I.

THE WAY—THE PLACE—THE PEOPLE.

SUNSHINE-SHADDER marked but a tiny dot upon the provincial chart as it snuggled inland some thirty miles from the little gridironed town of Kinglyville.

The latter was the capital town of the county, and besides enjoying this distinction it had, by diplomatic usage of its municipal importance, coaxed activity within its limits till the whistle of the mill factory and train rolled discordantly for many miles around.

Sunshine-Shadder, the tiny sister slumbering in the interior, was too remote to be awakened by the sounds thereof, but was nevertheless aware of the bold strides of the sister town which had no time or favors to bestow upon the tiny toddler, whose only medium of transit with the busy beyond took the form of an old tumble-down stage which rattled into Kinglyville once each week.

Stage passengers were few, yet people are wont to travel over all portions of the globe, and several were known to drop off the train at Kinglyville during each year and make enquiries as to the closest connection for Sunshine-Shadder.

If the traveller's arrival happened a day too early or too late for the weekly stage the equilibrium of comfortable anticipation was considerably jarred, for