

PREFACE TO NEW EDITION

Two years ago to-day—February 15th, 1909—I escaped from East Bergholt Abbey, to resume a life of freedom in the world. It might be asked now, after the lapse of two years, with what feelings do I regard the grave step of leaving the Abbey and breaking the lifelong vows I had taken. I can only answer that what I did then I in no wise regret—save that I ought to have ended it sooner, instead of enduring for seven years a life upon which I cannot look back even now without shuddering. Could I go back again to that February day, two years ago, my action would be precisely the same, and oh! how I wish with all my heart that the many other unhappy nuns, wherever situated, could have the fortunate opportunity that I had, and the courage, to escape.