

# FAITH AND FRIENDS.

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## CHAPTER I.

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### WHAT IS A FRIEND?

"WHERE lives the man who could be pessimist enough to say, that life was not worth the living in such a paradise as this?" soliloquized Hal Delancy, as he paused at the crest of a low hill, and, leaning upon his wheel, gazed admiringly at the sparkling waters of Bedford Basin. A gentle breeze fanned his brow where the drops of moisture had gathered, caused by his rapid ride from the city. The soft strains of music from a naval band came floating over the water, which was dotted with the white sails of the numerous pleasure boats that were flitting over the crested waves. One could almost fancy Old Sol reluctant to quit the peaceful scene, so long did he appear to linger on the verge of the horizon; but at length he hides his head, and our