

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. TOPOGRAPHICAL PRELIMINARIES	3
The marsh-bred people—Joanna Godden—Loafing days— The atmosphere of old farms—"The End of the House of Alard"—The advantages of walking—"Starbrace"— Rye—The Lookout in Watchbell Street—Fletcher—The Old Vicarage—"The Dead Host's Welcome"—On the tower of Rye Church—The "secret shy marsh country"— Martin Trevor and "Joanna Godden"—Dunge Ness—The lost settlement of Broomhill—Fishing with the Kettle Net—The melancholy rhythm of "Joanna Godden"— Sussex Gorse—Sussex Dialect—The "good old days" and the field labourer—A housewife's budget—Gordon Volk's Tale of a Sussex Windmill.	
II. RAMBLES ABOUT DALLINGTON	29
Hellingly—"Horselunges"—Lord Dacre executed at Tyburn—"Little England"—The Sussex farm-hand— Cowbech and its reposeful inn—The Foul Mile—A Sussex Moon—Bucksteep Manor—The Beatups—Worge Farm—Behind the plough—Northeye—Chilley—Mr. Sumption and the power of the soil—Brightling—Sock- nersh—"Joanna Godden"—The Obelisk—"Green Apple Harvest"—The Fuller Family—Robert Fuller—Roberts- bridge—Oxenbriggs—"Little England" and Ezra Sumption—Hedge-born love—Chiddingly—Heathfield— Rev. Thomas Fuller—Fuller's Forge—War Office and Sussex Guns—Nettlesworth Bridge—Boringhouse Farm— An old poem on the Forge.	
III. BURWASH	61
Rev. John Coker Egerton—Sheila Kaye-Smith's preface— A Sussexian to the core—A quack doctor—A cure for a "lyin' tongue and a bad memory"—Wet humour—Con- cerned in liquor—Passing of the old Sussex speech— Mabel Powland in "Green Apple Harvest"—The "un- friendly country" and the "warm, lighted" town— East Sussex traditional names—Burwash Parish Register— Clemmings—A horse-lover—Horse-sense.	

	PAGE
IV. A SUSSEX GHOST STORY	77
<p>Rose and Crown Inn at Burwash—A Saxon Toper—Sussex "contrairiness"—Independent child—A lamentable strange story—Blue eyes behind a "cawfin" lid—East Sussex drinkers—Vicar of Selmeston on the Degrees of Intoxication.</p>	
V. WINCHELSEA	89
<p>The Hill of Higham—Old Winchelsea—Notorious pirates—Pipe-Well Gate—The end of the House of Alard—The Alard Chantry—Reginald Alard—Stephen Alard—Oxenbridge family—Godfrey or Farncombe Chantry—The "Old People"—Crusaders' Crosses—Church Bell Clock weight—Sheila Kaye-Smith and the Oxford Movement—Ben Godfrey—The singular grace of the Sussex yeoman—Horse or motor-car?—Icklesham—"Starbrace"—Lower Float Farm—Cheyney's almshouses—Fourhouses—Tillingham Valley—Dinglesden Farm—Starvecrow—Peter Alard—Stella Mount—Conster Farm—Udimore—Wittersham—Isle of Oxney—Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson—Arthur Symons and his Tudor House—Richard Jefferies.</p>	
VI. IDEN AND PEASMARSH	115
<p>Sheila Kaye-Smith's Landmarks—Iden—The Bell Inn—Oxenbridge House—Sir Goddard Oxenbridge—A Wooden Saw—Peccant humours of the Oxenbridges—Lady Tirwhitt's poems—Cheyneys and Oxenbridges—The legend of Giles Cheyney—Ring him to death!—Iden Woods—Sheila Kaye-Smith and the Romany people—Poaching days and ways—Old House Farm—Cock Inn—Rye Foreign—Rose Backfield—An old fire-back—William Pattison—"Boarzell"—"Sussex gorse"—Naomi Gasson and Mad Harry—Bread, cheese and kisses.</p>	
VII. RYE	149
<p>"The Challenge of Sirius"—Gasson's wharf—Rye Harbour—Lowestoft trawlers—"Sussex gorse"—The Gasson family—The Rother—Use of the yoke at Rye—Old names of Rye inhabitants—Watchbell Street—French Protestants—The Court Hall—The Cheyney family—"Engagement" to serve the Commonwealth—Traders' marks—The George Hotel—Sheila Kaye-Smith on the old Elections—The Strand Gate—The Church—Church bell inscriptions—Lamb and Grebell families—Particulars of Grebell murder—Thomas House—The Jeake family.</p>	

CONTENTS

ix

	PAGE
VIII. THE LOCALE OF "STARBRACE"	167
"Starbrace"—Miles Starbrace—Walland Marsh—Place as a background—At "The Sussex Teg"—A girl of the marshes—The Four Cheyne Courts—"The Woolpack" near Brookland—Place names between Westfield and Battle—Puck's Hall.	
IX. THE SHY MARSH COUNTRY	177
New Romney—The New Inn—Joanna Godden—Great Flood at Romney—Stuppenye's Tomb—Joanna Godden's coachman—Lydd—Ivychurch—The Bell Inn—"How dreadful is this place"—William Blake and the dreary church—Joanna's farm at Little Ansdore—Brodneyx—Pedlinge—Brookland—The Woolpack—"Brodneyx Church" and Brookland—Farmers' club dinner—Smuggling—"Owlers"—Sheep and the "looker"—Dipping sheep—Shearing—Old song "The Crockery Ware."	
X. THE JOY OF DIGGING	199
Up at five in the morning—The smell of the marsh—Fagge "the looker"—The freedom of the earth—Essay of the spade—Moles—Guldeford—Guldeford ferry—Owlers—My friend the sheep-dog.	
XI. CAKES AND ALE	209
Food prices in 1726—Tusser—Sussex oatmeal pudding—"The Plague Drink"—A Sussex tramp's menu—plum pottage—Timothy Burrell's appetite—Thomas Turner—Walter Burrell, forgemaster and farmer—Sussex pudding—Sops-and-ale.	