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George Sturt (1863–1927) was a British wheelwright and writer who usually wrote under the pen-name George Bourne. A native of Surrey, he inherited his father's workshop in the rural village of the Bourne, near Farnborough in 1894 and began to record the daily lives and recollections of his rural family and acquaintances, which he published towards the end of his life. This volume, first published in 1913, contains Sturt's descriptions of characters and traditions of the village in which he lived. Through conversations with his gardener and labourer Fred Bettesworth and his own experiences, Sturt vividly and sensitively describes the community, hardships, daily lives and experiences of a variety of characters from his rural agricultural village, including Fred's wife Lucy Bettesworth. Written with a keen sense of the fragile nature of this community, this volume provides a valuable record of a now-vanished way of life.

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# Lucy Bettesworth

GEORGE STURT



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*By the Same Author*



THE BETTESWORTH BOOK  
MEMOIRS OF A SURREY LABOURER  
THE ASCENDING EFFORT  
CHANGE IN THE VILLAGE

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# LUCY BETTESWORTH

BY  
GEORGE BOURNE



LONDON: DUCKWORTH & CO.  
HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN

1913



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TO  
FRANK CORRIE

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## NOTE

THE majority of the papers collected in this volume appeared in serial form some years ago, and are now reprinted with the consent of Messrs. Macmillan and Co., Mr. Reginald Page, and the Editors of *Blackwood's Magazine*, the *Cornhill Magazine*, *Country Life* and *The Forum*.

With a view to clearing up my material relating to Bettesworth, I have included here a few "odds and ends" which, for one reason or another, were omitted from the two books dealing with him. There will be nothing further to be told about Bettesworth, for the few notes of his talk that are still left on my hands are so personal to people still living as to be quite unsuitable for publication.

GEORGE BOURNE.

*January, 1913.*

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