

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-02532-4 - The Toilers of the Field  
Richard Jefferies  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### History

The books reissued in this series include accounts of historical events and movements by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, as well as landmark studies that assembled significant source materials or developed new historiographical methods. The series includes work in social, political and military history on a wide range of periods and regions, giving modern scholars ready access to influential publications of the past.

### The Toilers of the Field

Richard Jefferies (1848–87) remains one of the most thoughtful and most lyrical writers on the English countryside. He had aspirations to make a living as a novelist, but it was his short factually-based articles for *The Live Stock Journal* and other magazines, drawn from a wealth of knowledge of the rural community into which he had been born, which, when brought together in book form, brought him recognition (though not wealth) and which continued to be read and admired after his early death. This volume, first published posthumously in 1892, contains a collection of essays concerning rural farmers and labourers previously published before Jefferies had achieved public recognition. Jefferies vividly describes the daily life and circumstances of Victorian English farmers, labourers and their wives without sentimentality, illustrating hardships in addition to idyllic pastimes, providing a realistic and valuable description of a now vanished way of life

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-02532-4 - The Toilers of the Field  
Richard Jefferies  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-02532-4 - The Toilers of the Field  
Richard Jefferies  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

# The Toilers of the Field

RICHARD JEFFERIES



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-02532-4 - The Toilers of the Field  
Richard Jefferies  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,  
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108025324](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108025324)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1892  
This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-02532-4 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

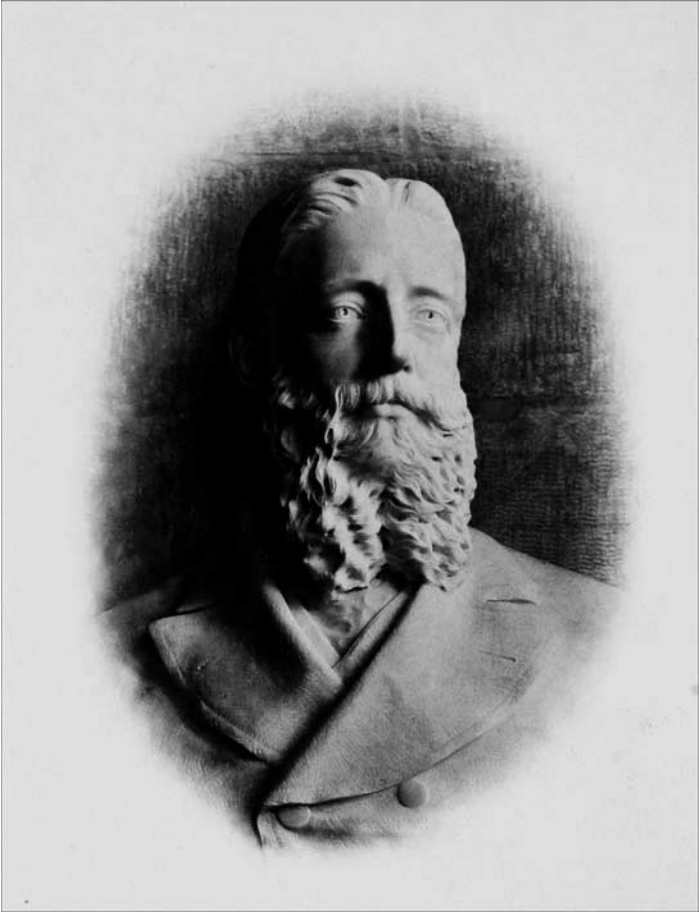
Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-02532-4 - The Toilers of the Field  
Richard Jefferies  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

THE  
TOILERS OF THE FIELD.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-02532-4 - The Toilers of the Field  
Richard Jefferies  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)



RICHARD JEFFERIES.

*From the bust by Miss Margaret Thomas, in Salisbury Cathedral.*

*Photographed by Mr. Owen, Salisbury.*

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-02532-4 - The Toilers of the Field  
Richard Jefferies  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

THE  
  
TOILERS OF THE FIELD.

BY  
  
RICHARD JEFFERIES,  
AUTHOR OF "THE GAMEKEEPER AT HOME," ETC. ETC.

LONDON:  
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.  
AND NEW YORK: 15 EAST 16<sup>th</sup> STREET.  
1892.

*All rights reserved.*

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-02532-4 - The Toilers of the Field  
Richard Jefferies  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## P R E F A C E.

THE first and larger part of this volume, from which it takes its name, consists of papers which will be new to the large majority of readers of Richard Jefferies' works. The five entitled, "The Farmer at Home," "The Labourer's Daily Life," "Field-faring Women," "An English Homestead," and "John Smith's Shanty," appeared in *Fraser's Magazine* in 1874, long before Jefferies had gained any portion of that fame which was so long in coming, and came in full measure too late. Of the three letters to the *Times*, written in 1872, one was republished, with the permission of Mrs. Jefferies, in an appendix to Mr. Walter Besant's "Eulogy of Richard Jefferies." It finds its natural place in this volume with the other papers, which give so clear a picture of the life of all classes of the cultivators of the soil in the early seventies. The "True Tale of the Wiltshire Labourer" has never previously



Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-02532-4 - The Toilers of the Field  
Richard Jefferies  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

been published, and is included in this volume by the kind permission of Mr. G. H. Harmer of the *Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard*, for which paper it was written when Jefferies was on its staff, but for some reason was never used.

All the papers in Part II. have appeared in *Longman's Magazine*, since Jefferies' death, and though they are with one exception very slight, yet they are all characteristic specimens of his work. From internal evidence it appears certain that the longest of them, entitled "The Coming of Summer," was written on June 1, 1881, and the subsequent days. It contains one or two points of resemblance with the famous "Pageant of Summer," which appeared in *Longman's Magazine* for June 1883. It was perhaps the first study of which that paper is the finished picture.

The frontispiece is reproduced by kind permission of Mr. J. Owen of Salisbury, from a photograph taken by him of Miss Thomas' bust of Jefferies in Salisbury Cathedral.

C. J. LONGMAN.

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-108-02532-4 - The Toilers of the Field  
 Richard Jefferies  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

## CONTENTS.

### *PART I.*

	PAGE
THE FARMER AT HOME . . . . .	3
THE LABOURER'S DAILY LIFE . . . . .	60
FIELD-FARING WOMEN . . . . .	111
AN ENGLISH HOMESTEAD . . . . .	151
JOHN SMITH'S SHANTY . . . . .	175
WILTSHIRE LABOURERS (LETTERS TO THE "TIMES")	211
A TRUE TALE OF THE WILTSHIRE LABOURER . . .	259

---

### *PART II.*

THE COMING OF SUMMER . . . . .	289
THE GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN . . . . .	313
AN EXTINCT RACE . . . . .	315
ORCHIS MASCULA . . . . .	319
THE LIONS IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE . . . . .	321