The Old Franciscan Missions of California

James George Wharton
IN AND OUT
OF THE
OLD MISSIONS OF CALIFORNIA
BOOKS BY GEORGE WHARTON JAMES.

IN AND AROUND THE GRAND CANYON OF THE COLORADO RIVER IN ARIZONA.
THE INDIANS OF THE PAINTED DESERT REGION.
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BY GEORGE WHARTON JAMES
AUTHOR OF "IN AND AROUND THE GRAND CANYON," "INDIANS OF THE PAINTED DESERT REGION" "INDIAN BASKETRY," ETC.

WITH 142 ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

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TO SCRAGGLES,

MY PET SPARROW AND COMPANION

SAINT FRANCIS, the founder of the Franciscan order, without whom there would probably have been no missions in California, regarded the birds as his "little brothers and sisters." Just as I began the actual writing of this book I picked up in the streets a tiny song sparrow, wounded, unable to fly, and that undoubtedly had been thrust out of its nest. In a short time we became close friends and inseparable companions. Hour after hour she sat on my foot, or, better still, perched, with head under her wing, on my left hand, while I wrote with the other. Nothing I did, such as the movement of books, turning of leaves, etc., made her afraid. When I left the room she hopped and fluttered along after me. She died just as the book was receiving its finishing pages. On account of her ragged and unkempt appearance I called her Scraggles; and to her, a tiny morsel of animation, but who had a keen appreciation and reciprocation of a large affection, I dedicate this book.