



SHE KISSED MARY ON HER LOVING, LOYAL LIPS (page 37)

# THE SUCCESSORS OF MARY THE FIRST

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BY

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## NOTE

THE writer of these pages wishes to say that, while many of the incidents herein described are not without foundation in fact, they do not reproduce the experience of the household whose history is best known to herself.

. . . . .

The personal confidences of the woman who enters a house as a domestic employee should be sacredly respected by her employers, whether she succeed or fail; and especially, to my thinking, if she fail. I have in no case portrayed the personality of any woman who has missed giving me satisfaction by her own default or by her own misfortune. I have taken the liberty in one

or two instances of paying public tribute in fictitious form to private virtues which I could not forget if I would. Loyalty in change of fortune, devotion in illness, fidelity to monotonous duty, and affection warmly tendered and returned—these the mistress of a household counts jealously among the treasures of life. For so sacred and so subtle is the power of a human home, that those who have ever formed one family can never be or become to one another like strangers without the gates.

To the unwritten names of the capable, honorable, and lovable women who have given me happiness in giving me service, I inscribe this story.

ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS WARD.