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UNCLE SILAS BY J. S. LE FANU.
IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

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UNCLE SILAS:

A TALE OF BARTRAM-HAUGH.

BY

J. S. LE FANU.

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IN TWO VOLUMES
VOL. I.

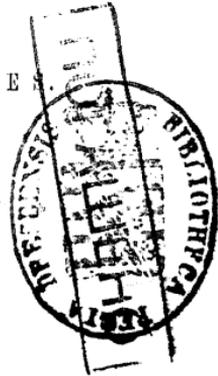
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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1865.

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TO THE RIGHT HON.
THE COUNTESS OF GIFFORD,
AS
A TOKEN
OF
RESPECT, SYMPATHY, AND ADMIRATION,
THIS TALE
IS
INSCRIBED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

A PRELIMINARY WORD.

THE writer of this tale ventures, in his own person, to address a very few words, chiefly of explanation, to his readers. A leading situation in this "Story of Bartram-Haugh" is repeated, with a slight variation, from a short magazine tale of some fifteen pages written by him, and published long ago in a periodical under the title of "A Passage in the Secret History of an Irish Countess," and afterwards, still anonymously, in a small volume under an altered title. It is very unlikely that any of his readers should have encountered, and still more so that they should remember, this trifle. The bare possibility, however, he has ventured to anticipate by this brief explanation, lest he should be charged with plagiarism — always a disrespect to a reader.

May he be permitted a few words also of remonstrance against the promiscuous application of the term "sensation" to that large school of fiction which transgresses no one of those canons of construction and morality which, in producing the unapproachable "Waverley Novels," their great author imposed upon himself? No one, it is assumed, would describe Sir Walter Scott's romances as "sensation novels;" yet in that marvellous series there is not a single tale in