

COLLECTION
OF
BRITISH AUTHORS
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TALES FROM "BLACKWOOD."
IN ONE VOLUME.

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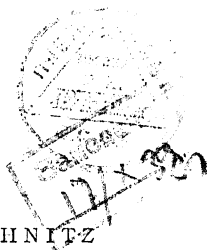
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TALES

FROM

"BLACKWOOD."

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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1880.

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THE TENDER RECOLLECTIONS
OF
IRENE MACGILLICUDDY

I.

THERE is something very appalling to one so young and inexperienced as myself in the effort of sitting down for the first time in my life to address the public. Apart from the horrid doubt which haunts me, and which seems to paralyse my pen, that perhaps after all my trouble I shall not be able to find any publisher with a sufficient appreciation of my talent to accept my manuscript, there is the conviction that the little story I am about to tell will produce a very considerable sensation upon one, if not upon both sides of the Atlantic; possibly it may not be altogether favourable to myself. I shall be called unpatriotic, unladylike, calumnious, perhaps even indelicate, for describing a few episodes of my somewhat rapid career, not with any view of forcing my own insignificant personality upon the public, but because it is impossible for me otherwise to illustrate the manners and customs of the society in which I was brought up. Ever since I was transplanted from the splendid brown stone mansion on Fifth Avenue in New York, where I passed the giddy seasons of my girlhood, to the modest luxury of the villa in Richmond, from which I am now writing, I have felt possessed by an absorbing desire to "show up," so to speak, the life led by the world of fashion