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COLLECTION
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VILLETTE BY CURRER BELL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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VILLETTE.

BY

CURRIER BELL,

AUTHOR OF "JANE EYRE."

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LEIPZIG

BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1853.

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V I L L E T T E.

VOL. II.

CHAPTER XXII.

The Letter.

WHEN all was still in the house; when dinner was over and the noisy recreation-hour past; when darkness had set in, and the quiet lamp of study was in the refectory; when the externes were gone home, the clashing door and clamorous bell were hushed for the evening; when madame was safely settled in the *salle à manger* in company with her mother and some friends; I then glided to the kitchen, begged a bougie for one half hour for a particular occasion, found acceptance of my petition at the hands of my friend Goton, who answered, “*mais certainement, chou-chore, vous en aurez deux, si vous voulez.*” And, light in hand, mounted noiseless to the dormitory.

Great was my chagrin to find in that apartment a pupil gone to bed indisposed, — greater when I recognized amid the muslin night-cap borders, the “figure chiffonnée” of Mistress Ginevra Fanshawe — supine at this moment, it is true — but certain to wake and overwhelm me with chatter when the interruption would be least acceptable; indeed, as I watched her, a slight twinkling of the eyelids warned me that the present