

PEVERIL OF THE PEAK.



H. Billings del.

J. Andrews Sc.

*Julian and Alice, alarmed by the Countess.*

Published by Ticknor and Fields, Boston 1858



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PEVERIL OF THE PEAK.

TWO VOLUMES IN ONE.



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"If my readers should at any time remark that I am particularly dull, they may be assured there is a design under it."

BRITISH ESSAYIST.

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### INTRODUCTION—(1831.)

IF I had valued my own reputation, as it is said I ought in prudence to have done, I might have now drawn a line, and remained for life, or (who knows?) perhaps for some years after death, the "ingenious author of Waverley." I was not, however, more desirous of this sort of immortality, which might have lasted some twenty or thirty years, than Falstaff of the embowelling which was promised him after the field of Shrewsbury, by his patron the Prince of Wales. "Embowel'd? If you embowel me to day, you may powder and eat me to-morrow!"

If my occupation as a romancer were taken from me, I felt I should have at a late hour in life to find me out another; when I could hardly expect to acquire those new tricks, which are proverbially said not to be learned by those dogs who are getting old. Besides, I had yet to