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Title: The Precipice

Author: Ivan Goncharov

Release Date: January, 2005 [EBook #7307]
[This file was first posted on April 10, 2003]

Edition: 10

Language: English

Character set encoding: ISO Latin-1

*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK, THE PRECIPICE ***

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THE PRECIPICE

by
IVAN GONCHAROV

Original Russian Title: _OBRYV_

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL RUSSIAN; TRANSLATOR UNKNOWN
[This text is condensed from the original.]

PREFACE

Ivan Alexandrovich Goncharov (1812-1891) was one of the leading members of the great circle of Russian writers who, in the middle of the nineteenth century, gathered around the _Sovremmenik_ (Contemporary) under Nekrasov's editorship--a circle including Turgenev, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Byelinsky, and Herzen. He had not the marked genius of the first three of these; but that he is so much less known to the western reader is perhaps also due to the fact that there was nothing