

BEHIND THE SCENES
IN RUSSIA.

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"GREGORY HAWKSHAW," ETC., ETC.

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1874.

TO

MRS. ALFRED GATTY.

ABOUT six years ago, when I was almost in despair of ever seeing in print a production of my own pen, I posted, by some fortunate accident, a small packet of MSS., addressed to the Editor of "*Aunt Judy's Magazine*." Thus came to me my first literary earnings, after many years of apprenticeship. Since the appearance of the paper alluded to my pen has not often been idle, and I hope it has not been useless. I have actually arrived at the distinction of being called a dull fellow by the "*Saturday Review*!"

Gratitude alone would therefore be a sufficient excuse for this dedication, which, however, I cannot close

without expressing my admiration of your writings, and of the good mark which you have made in English literature.

This dedication is therefore a twofold one. Firstly, to one whom I might almost venture to call my literary godmother, and, secondly, to "Aunt Judy," the children's friend.

Please accept also my thanks for much kind sympathy received on many occasions.

Carlsbad, August 3rd., 1873.

"Fungar inani munere."

Jan. 3rd., 1874.

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