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ALICE LORRAINE 2 vols

MARY ANERLEY.

A YORKSHIRE TALE.

BY

R. D. BLACKMORE,
AUTHOR OF "ALICE LORRAINE," ETC.

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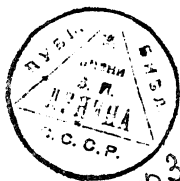
IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LEIPZIG
BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1880.

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CONTENTS

OF VOLUME II.

	Page
CHAPTER I. A Farm to let	7
— II. An Old Soldier	19
— III. Jack and Jill go down the Gill	38
— IV. Young Gilly Flowers	55
— V. Love Militant	76
— VI. Love Penitent	102
— VII. Down among the Dead Weeds	111
— VIII. Men of Solid Timber	131
— IX. The Proper Way to argue	146
— X. Farewell, Wife and Children dear	159
— XI. Tactics of Defence	168
— XII. Inland Opinion	181
— XIII. Tactics of Attack	200
— XIV. Cordial Enjoyment	215
— XV. Bearded in his Den	235
— XVI. The Dove-Cot	247
— XVII. Little Carroways	258
— XVIII. Maids and Mermaids	267

MARY ANERLEY.

CHAPTER I.

A FARM TO LET.

THAT storm on the festival of St. Michael broke up the short summer weather of the north. A wet and tempestuous month set in; and the harvest, in all but the very best places, lay flat on the ground, without sithe or sickle. The men of the Riding were not disturbed by this, as farmers would have been in Suffolk; for these were quite used to walk over their crops, without much occasion to lift their feet. They always expected their corn to be laid, and would have been afraid of it, if it stood upright. Even at Anerley Farm, this salaam of the wheat was expected in bad seasons; and it suited the reapers of the neighbourhood, who scarcely knew what to make of knees unbent, and upright discipline of stiff-cravated ranks.