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COLLECTION
OF
BRITISH AUTHORS.
VOL. LXVI.

ARRAH NEIL BY JAMES.

IN ONE VOLUME.

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A R R A H N E I L,

OR

TIMES OF OLD.

BY

G. P. R. JAMES.

*SANCTIONED BY THE AUTHOR FOR CONTINENTAL
CIRCULATION.*



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BERNH. TAUCHNITZ JUN.

1844.

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CHAPTER I.

ABOUT two centuries ago, in times with which we are all familiar, as they comprised a period of English history the events of which have affected the social condition of the British people more than almost any which have preceded or followed that period — about two centuries ago, there stood upon the slope of a gentle hill in a picturesque part of England, an old brick mansion of considerable extent, and of a venerable though flourishing exterior. On the right hand and on the left there was a wood of various trees, amidst which Evelyn might have delighted to roam, choice children of the British forest, mingled with many a stranger grown familiar with the land, though not long denized in it. In front was a terrace flanked with quaintly carved flower pots of stone, and beyond that stretched a lawn several roods in extent, leaving the mansion fully exposed to the eye of every one who wandered through the valley below. Beyond the lawn, again, a wide view extended over a pleasant scene of hill and dale, with the top of a village church and its high tower peeping over the edge of the first earth wave; and far off, faint and grey, were seen the lines of a distant city apparently of considerable extent. The house itself had nothing very remarkable in its appearance, and yet circumstances compel us to give some account of it, although it is but building up to pull down, as the reader will soon perceive. The middle part consisted of a large square mass of brick work rising

Arrah Neil.