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MAURICE DERING.  
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# MAURICE DERING;

OR,

## THE QUADRILATERAL.

A NOVEL.

BY THE

AUTHOR OF "GUY LIVINGSTONE."

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LEIPZIG

BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1864.

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# MAURICE DERING:

OR,

## THE QUADRILATERAL.

### CHAPTER I.

#### A Foundation Stone.

AT that shivered granite cross we seem to touch the point, where the collar-strain that has lasted for a long league shall cease. Our sturdy little team know it too, for they break of their own accord from the stubborn slouching jog that no yells or oaths could quicken, into a brisk imitation of a trot; a sharp swing round the hill-shoulder, and a couple of steep descents down which the diligence staggers, rolling like a ship with overmuch deck-load, bring us right into the dreary, grey bourg of Broons, where we, who travel eastward from St. Brieuc, must make our midday halt.

It is a real Finisterre day; glaring, yet gusty withal. No quiet outside under the swirling sign-bush, where ghastly beggars gather — clamorous or monotonously mournful; where half-a-dozen horsekeepers of both sexes are shouting intimidation at a refractory stallion, who is so evidently master of the position that he disdains to kick in earnest, and simply screams defiance. Not much of quiet in the low murky *salle*, where a