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A SAPPHO OF GREEN SPRINGS

AND OTHER TALES

BY

BRET HARTE.

AUTHORIZED EDITION.

LEIPZIG
BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1891.

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A SAPPHO OF GREEN SPRINGS.

CHAPTER I.

"COME in," said the editor.

The door of the editorial room of the "Excelsior Magazine" began to creak painfully under the hesitating pressure of an uncertain and unfamiliar hand. This continued until with a start of irritation the editor faced directly about, throwing his leg over the arm of his chair with a certain youthful dexterity. With one hand gripping its back, the other still grasping a proof-slip, and his pencil in his mouth, he stared at the intruder.

The stranger, despite his hesitating entrance, did not seem in the least disconcerted. He was a tall man, looking even taller by reason of the long formless overcoat he wore, known as a "duster," and by a long straight beard that depended from his chin,