

COLLECTION
OF
BRITISH AUTHORS.
VOL. 581.

MARTHA BROWN.

IN ONE VOLUME.

TAUCHNITZ EDITION.

By the same Author,

STILL WATERS	in 1 vol.
DOROTHY	in 1 vol.
DE CRESSY	in 1 vol.
UNCLE RALPH	in 1 vol.
MAIDEN SISTERS	in 1 vol.

2141
393

MARTHA BROWN,

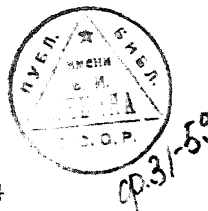
THE HEIRESS.

BY

THE AUTHOR OF "STILL WATERS,"

"DOROTHY," ETC.

COPYRIGHT EDITION.



LEIPZIG

BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1861.

The Right of Translation is reserved.

"*Suffer love*: A good epithet! I do suffer love, indeed, for I love thee against my will Thou and I are too wise to woo peaceably."

Much Ado About Nothing.

MARTHA BROWN, THE HEIRESS.

CHAPTER I.

IT was Christmas time — marked in one of the old-fashioned houses of Bedford-square by two sprays of holly which decked the ormolu chandeliers, on either side of the mirror. There was no Christmas merry-making, none of the deeper joy of a family gathering, in the little party assembled there. One feeble, paralytic old man sat in his easy chair, his head half dropped upon his breast, and his only companion was a girl, or woman: for hers were not the form and features of extreme youth, who leaned her head upon her hand, and looked dreamily at the fire.

“Ah, well,” said the old man, rousing himself from an uneasy sleep, “I shall not live to see another Christmas.”

His niece looked up, and did not make merely a silent assent. “I do not think you will,” she said, after a pause.