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ESTHER HILL'S SECRET BY G. M. CRAIK.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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ESTHER HILL'S SECRET.

BY

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LEIPZIG

BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1871.

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ESTHER HILL'S SECRET.

CHAPTER I.

EXCEPT that people grow used to living with a drawn sword above their heads, it would be difficult to believe how Esther Hill could have been as happy even as she was during these weeks that she spent with Guy Dunstan's people, for her dread of the discovery of her secret was never allowed to sleep—it was kept painfully alive day after day by George Gilbert's visits to the house.

"I thought you used to say that Mr. Gilbert came very little here, but you seem to see him often," she said with sad patience one day to Gabrielle; and Gabrielle answered innocently—

"I don't know what has made him come oftener than he used to do. Yes—he has been here three or four times since you came—has he not? He used not to come nearly so often as that." And she little knew as she said this how sharp a spasm of