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EXPIATED.

BY THE
AUTHOR OF "BEHIND THE VEIL."

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LEIPZIG
BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

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P R E F A C E.

THE PRESENT WORK is, and was intended to be, a tragedy, striking the deep notes of human emotion, human error, and human suffering; and the novel-readers who may honour it with their perusal are kindly requested to accept it as such. A main incident of the story, in fact, although cast in widely different times, was suggested by the "Hippolytus" of Euripides.

E X P I A T E D.

OVERTURE.

THE SEA-BEACH.

A small fishing-cove, piled on its upper margin with masses of broken rock, below which the sand stretches hard and firm to the water-line.

On the sand, two children playing; a boy and girl: no great difference in their ages, she is eleven or thereabouts, and he may be some months older; of gentle condition both of them.

Their second play on the beach that day. All the morning they had played there; delving and shovelling away the loose sand with their spades; pausing—for the tide was flowing—to watch some long wave come curling in from the open roadstead outside, and fret itself away, with a swash and ripple, on the curving bay-line. Then the spades again; then another pause, as some pebble was thrown up, white and sparkling with the sea-water, almost to their feet, and borne off in triumph before the wave had time to wash it back again. And while this was being discussed and examined, perhaps a merchant-ship would appear in the offing with all sails set, courting every breath of the light