

COLLECTION
OF
BRITISH AUTHORS.

VOL. 872.

MADONNA MARY BY MRS. OLIPHANT.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

MADONNA MARY.

BY

MRS. OLIPHANT.

COPYRIGHT EDITION.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LEIPZIG

BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1867.

The Right of Translation is reserved.

MADONNA MARY.

CHAPTER I.

THE Cottage changed its aspect greatly after the arrival of the regiment, and it was a change which lasted a long time, for the dépôt was established at Carlisle, and Captain Askell got an appointment which smoothed the stony way of life a little for himself and his wife. Kirtell was very accessible and very pretty, and there was always a welcome to be had at the Cottage; and the regiment returned in the twinkling of an eye to its old regard for its Madonna Mary. The officers came about the house continually, to the great enlivenment of the parish in general. And Mrs. Kirkman came, and very soon made out that the vicar and his curate were both very incompetent, and did what she could to form a missionary nucleus, if not under Mrs. Ochterlony's wing, at least protected by her shadow; and the little Askells came and luxuriated in the grass and the flowers; and Miss Sorbette and the doctor, who were still on the strength of the regiment, paid many visits, bringing with them the new people whom Mary did not know. When Hugh and Islay came home at vacation times, they found the house so lively, that it acquired new attractions for them, and Aunt Agatha, who was not so old as to be quite indifferent to society,