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VILLETTE BY CURRER BELL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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VILLETTE.

BY

CURRER BELL

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LEIPZIG

BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

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CONTENTS

O F V O L U M E I.

CHAPTER		Page
I.	Bretton	1
— II.	Paulina	11
— III.	The Playmates	21
— IV.	Miss Marchmont	45
— V.	Turning a new leaf	57
— VI.	London	64
— VII.	Villette	80
— VIII.	Madame Beck	93
— IX.	Isidore	114
— X.	Dr. John.	130
— XI.	The Portresse's Cabinet.	140
— XII.	The Casket	149
— XIII.	A Sneeze out of Season	164
— XIV.	The Fête	179
— XV.	The long Vacation	220
— XVI.	Auld Lang Syne	237
— XVII.	La Terrasse	258

	Page
CHAPTER XVIII. We quarrel	272
— XIX. The Cleopatra	282
— XX. The Concert	299
— XXI. Reaction	329

V I L L E T T E.

VOL. I.



CHAPTER I.

Bretton.

My godmother lived in a handsome house in the clean and ancient town of Bretton. Her husband's family had been residents there for generations, and bore, indeed, the name of their birth-place — Bretton of Bretton: whether by coincidence, or because some remote ancestor had been a personage of sufficient importance to leave his name to his neighbourhood, I know not.

When I was a girl I went to Bretton about twice a year, and well I liked the visit. The house and its inmates specially suited me. The large peaceful rooms, the well-arranged furniture, the clear wide windows, the balcony outside, looking down on a fine antique street, where Sundays and holidays seemed always to abide — so quiet was its atmosphere, so clean its pavement — these things pleased me well.

One child in a household of grown people is usually made very much of, and in a quiet way I was a good deal taken notice of by Mrs. Bretton, who had been left a widow, with one son, before I knew her;