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BORDERLAND BY JESSIE FOTHERGILL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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BORDERLAND:

A COUNTRY-TOWN CHRONICLE.

BY

JESSIE FOTHERGILL,

AUTHOR OF "THE FIRST VIOLIN," "KITH AND KIN," ETC.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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BORDERLAND.

CHAPTER I. WORK AND WAGES.

THREE weeks of unmitigated, solid, hard work followed in Michael's life upon these two eventful afternoons—not work of a kind to make him forget whatever transient gleam of a different world might have crossed his path. It was not the art that can make poverty rich, and turn prose into poetry; it was not the science which can possess and absorb and fascinate a man, and charm him away from outside influences, so as to be a formidable rival to even a well-loved human being. It was none of that, but one continual, mechanical grind amongst prosaic and often sordid surroundings, accomplished without excitement or glamour, at the expense of considerable physical wear and tear and weariness. After such a day's work as this, he would come in to his home and his friend. If he was not too tired, there was always plenty to occupy his time in the shape of reading, connected with his profession; very often more visits to pay