

**THE NOVELS OF  
BJØRNSTJERNE  
BJØRNSEN, VOLUME  
III; A HAPPY BOY**

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*Edited by EDMUND GOSSE*

VOLUME III

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*Synnöve Solbakken*

*Arne*

*A Happy Boy*

*The Fisher Lass*

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*Absalom's Hair, & A Painful Memory*

*In God's Way (2 vols.)*

*The Heritage of the Kurts (2 vols.)*

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# A HAPPY BOY

BY

BJÖRNSTJERNE BJÖRNSSON

*Translated from the Norwegian*

*By Mrs. W. ARCHER*

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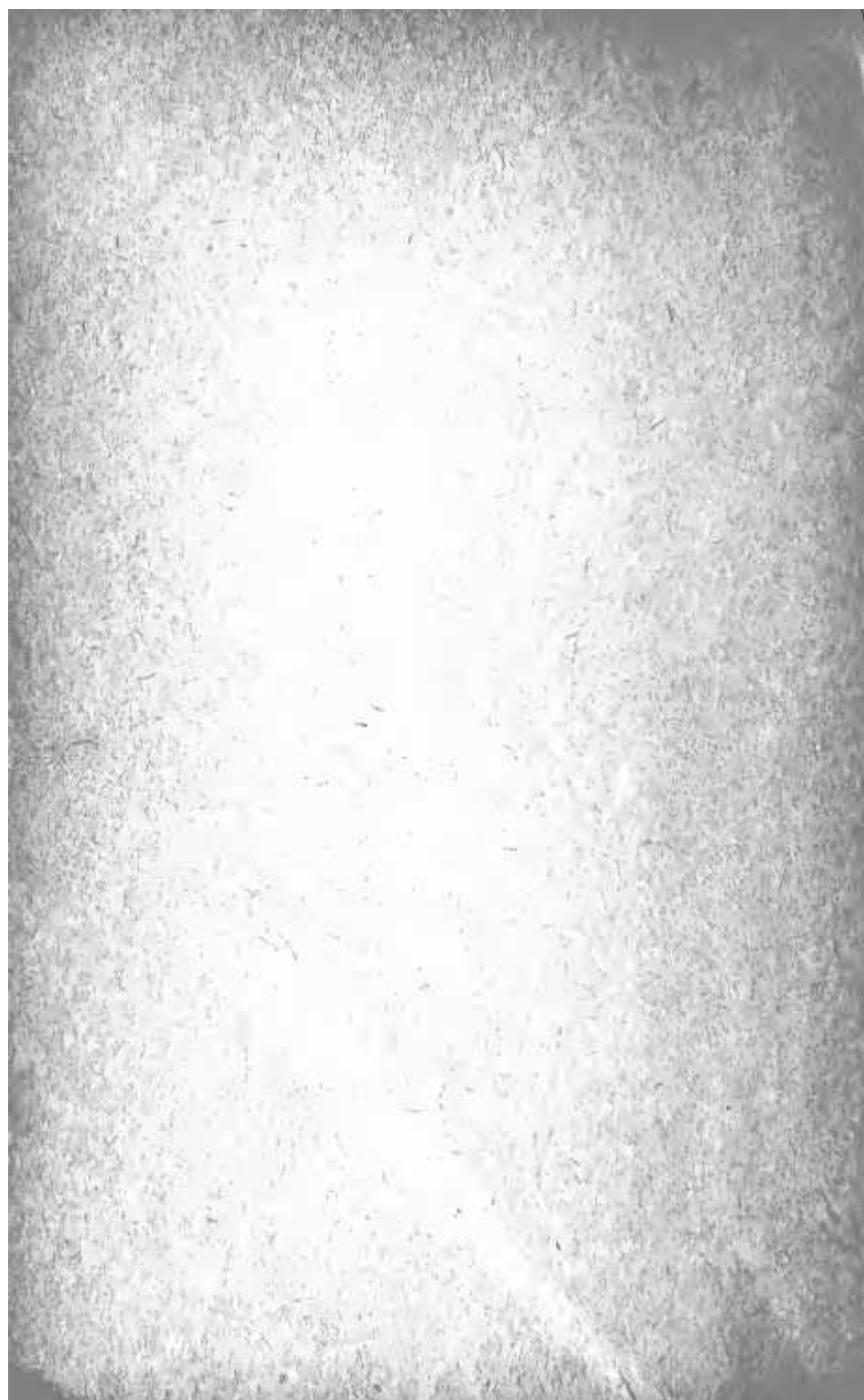
### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

[A *HAPPY BOY* was originally published in the Christiania newspaper "Aftenbladet," 1859-60. Later on, in 1860, it was printed in a revised form at the close of the collected volume called "Smaastykker" ("Small Pieces"), issued at Bergen. It has never appeared in the original as an independent publication. The story was begun in Christiania in 1858, and finished at Søgne Parsonage in 1859.

A Swedish translation was published in 1862, and another in Finnish in the same year. A Dutch version, without date, is said to have appeared still earlier. The earliest English translation was printed in 1869, and the story has always been a great favourite in this country. There are versions in French, German, Icelandic, Croatian and other languages.

E. G.]

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# A HAPPY BOY

## CHAPTER I

HE was called Eyvind, and he cried when he was born. But as soon as he could sit up on his mother's knee he laughed; and when they lighted the candle at evening, he laughed till the place rang again, but cried when he could not get to it.

"This boy will be something out of the common," said his mother.

A bare rock frowned over the house where he was born, but it was not high; fir and birch trees looked down from its brow, and the wild cherry strewed blossoms on the roof. A little goat which belonged to Eyvind roamed about the roof; he had to be kept up there lest he should