

**POLAR GLEAMS, AN
ACCOUNT OF A
VOYAGE ON THE
YACHT "BLENCATHRA"**

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Polar gleams, an account of a voyage on the yacht "Blencathra" by Helen Peel

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HELEN PEEL

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Photo by A. C. Hollingshead Brighton.

Portrait No. 21

Nellie Peel

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POLAR GLEAMS

AN ACCOUNT OF A VOYAGE
ON THE
YACHT 'BLENCATHRA'

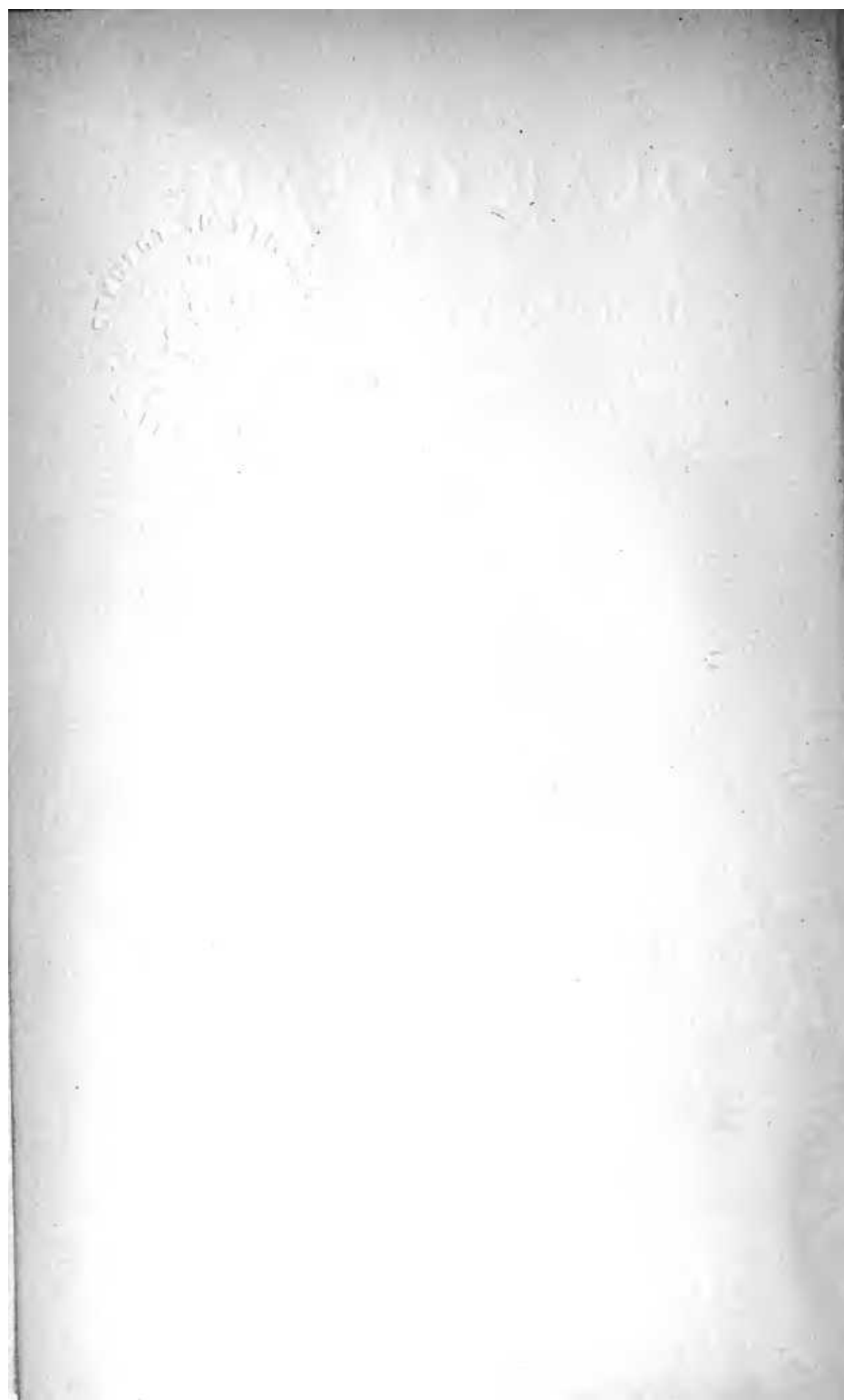
BY
HELEN PEEL

WITH A PREFACE BY
THE MARQUESS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA
AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY
CAPTAIN JOSEPH WIGGINS AND FREDERICK G. JACKSON

CHICAGO
A. C. McCLURG AND COMPANY

1894

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AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

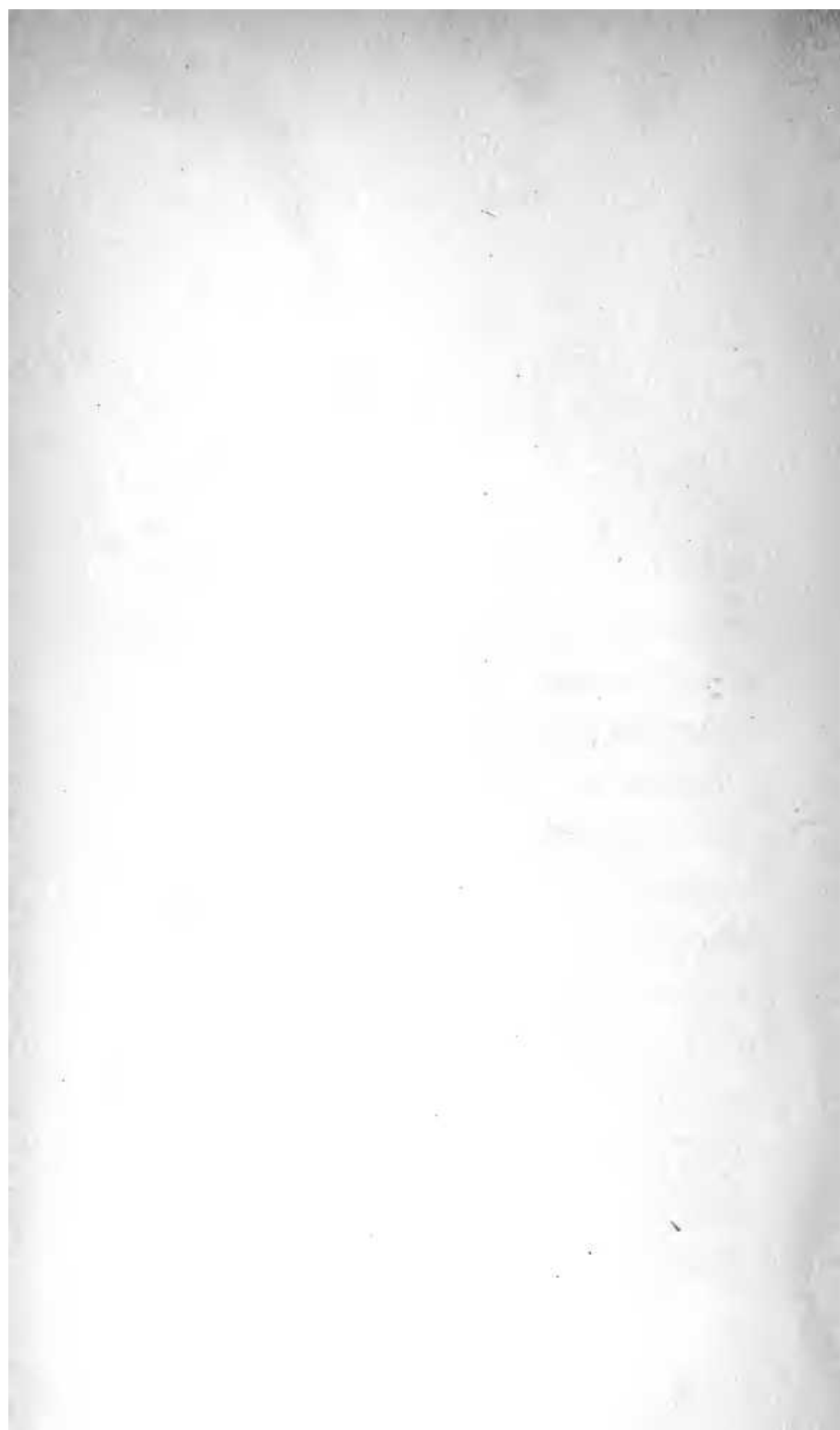
TO MY FATHER,

Sir Robert Peel,

IN DELIGHTFUL REMEMBRANCE

OF A CRUISE

THROUGH ARCTIC SEAS.



PREFATORY NOTE

IN entrusting the frail bark of a first literary effort to an ocean more formidable than the storm-abounding Arctic Sea, I shall reasonably incur the charge of rashness.

As every effort, however, must have a beginning, I can only prefix a few words of explanation to my attempt, and tender an apology for inviting public notice to a book which, I am painfully aware, can pretend to no literary excellence, but which, I trust, will be judged in the same indulgent spirit that the House of Commons extends to a "maiden speech."

In the compilation of the following pages, I desired to guide my indulgent friends and readers over comparatively unknown waters to the mighty

Yenesei River, which issues from a region associated in the popular mind with much that is horrible in climatic severity, and repugnant owing to its being pictured as a gigantic and cruel prison-house for political exiles ; but this river is destined to become one of the great highways of the world.

The ideas generally held of the great continent of Siberia are in many respects erroneous. Travellers of renown have lately given to us their personal experience of this immense country and its infinite resources, and have thus helped to dispel misconceptions and allay a tendency to exaggerate obstacles to its development. Siberia is at present undergoing a complete transformation through the increased facilities of navigation along its mighty rivers, and the creation of the great railway now under construction by the enterprise of the Russian Government. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of this development.