IN STEVENSON'S SAMOA

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In Stevenson's Samoa by Marie Fraser

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MARIE FRASER

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IN STEVENSON'S SAMOA

BY

MARIE FRASER

SECOND EDITION

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PREFACE

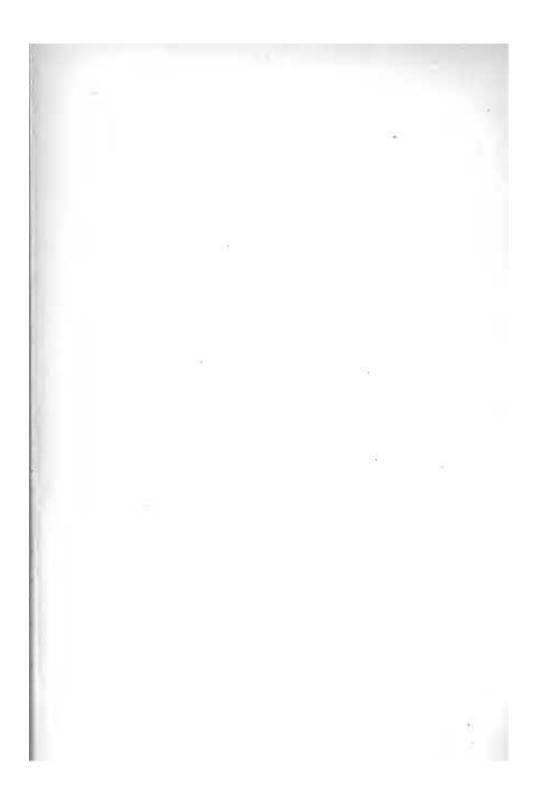
I have been asked to write a preface to this little book. This would seem a work of supercrogation unless it were to point out that it is as it were a chance record, and therefore in some respects the more valuable, of the character of Robert Louis Stevenson. Slight as is the sketch of him, a more attractive portrait of a man of genius, whose end and aim was to promote the happiness of his fellow-creatures, has in my poor judgment seldom been presented to us.

In the frontispiece I recognise at once the commanding figure of my old friend standing by his horse. The last words I had from him reached me on the same day that the news of his death was known in London. Standing by the house are his wife and Mrs. Fraser. On the other side, on horseback, is Miss Fraser, for whom I am glad to act as literary godfather.

JAMES PAYN.

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IN STEVENSON'S SAMOA

CHAPTER I

FIRST DAYS IN SAMOA

'You have taken your amber necklace? That's right. You will find it most useful. Flowers also are greatly worn.' So said a friend who had visited Samoa, as he bade us adieu on our departure from Sydney for those islands. Our spirits were further cheered by his brother saying, 'I hear any white people who are there live in the most simple manner. All eat out of one large bowl in the middle of the floor, and fight over bones in corners, gnashing their teeth and growling. Then, in a frenzy of hospitality, they rush out into the jungle,