

**REGINALD
HETHEREGE. IN THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. I**

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Reginald Hetherege. In three volumes. Vol. I by Henry Kingsley

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HENRY KINGSLEY

**REGINALD
HETHEREGE. IN THREE
VOLUMES. VOL. I**

REGINALD HETHEREGE.

BY

HENRY KINGSLEY,

AUTHOR OF "RAVENSHOE," "GEOFFREY HAMLYN," ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.



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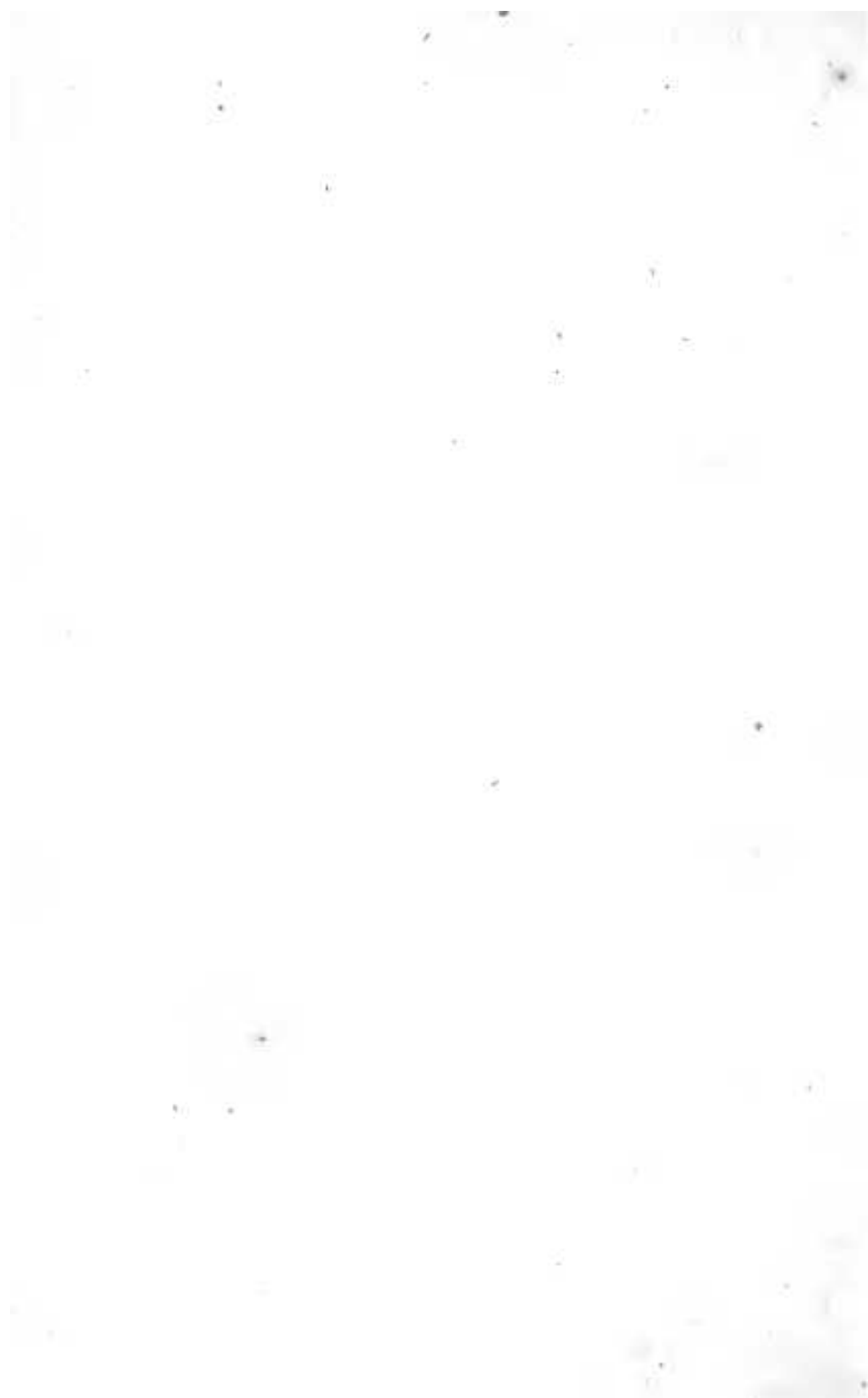
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SCIENCE
RESERVE



REGINALD HETHEREGE.

CHAPTER I.

MR. DIGBY DOES THE BEST HE CAN UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES.

REGINALD HETHEREGE made so many failures, and accomplished such remarkable successes in his life, that the story of it would be worth telling, even had he, the principal character in it, no more moral value or capacity of expression than the buoy at the Nore; to which most excellent arrangement of staves and iron hoops he has been frequently likened by our mutual friend Goodge, the

great traveller, who was naturally an excessively good-humoured man about town, but who ended by being made F.R.S. for verifying other people's discoveries.

Whether Reginald was anything more worthy of description than the buoy at the Nore our readers must judge for themselves, it is most absolutely certain that he at one time earned the love and respect of all who knew him. He floated, like the great buoy, passively through calm weather and foul weather, sometimes with the waves rippling pleasantly about him, sometimes with the great northern seas pouring over his head, until the last ship he waited to pilot came safe into port; and then he broke from his moorings, and was towed comfortably into port himself. So much for Goodge's simile.

In the long course of his life he had

many opportunities for making friends and enemies—for making, as we before remarked, successes and failures. He availed himself of these opportunities to the utmost extent of his genius—which we rank high—during all periods of his existence. In the way of failures and blunders, his genius never served him so well through his life as it did on the first instance when he utilized it. The most magnificent blunder which Reginald ever made was being born at all, or, to be more correct, being brought into the world exactly when he was. In all his future transactions, remarkable as they were, he never approached his first masterly fiasco.

He was humbly conscious of this through his life: up to quite a late period in his existence he would coolly and bravely face any member of the family on any other point, but always