

THE BARREL MYSTERY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649071432

The barrel mystery by William J. Flynn

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WILLIAM J. FLYNN

**THE BARREL
MYSTERY**

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BY

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Chief of the United States Secret Service
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NEW YORK

THE JAMES A. McCANN COMPANY

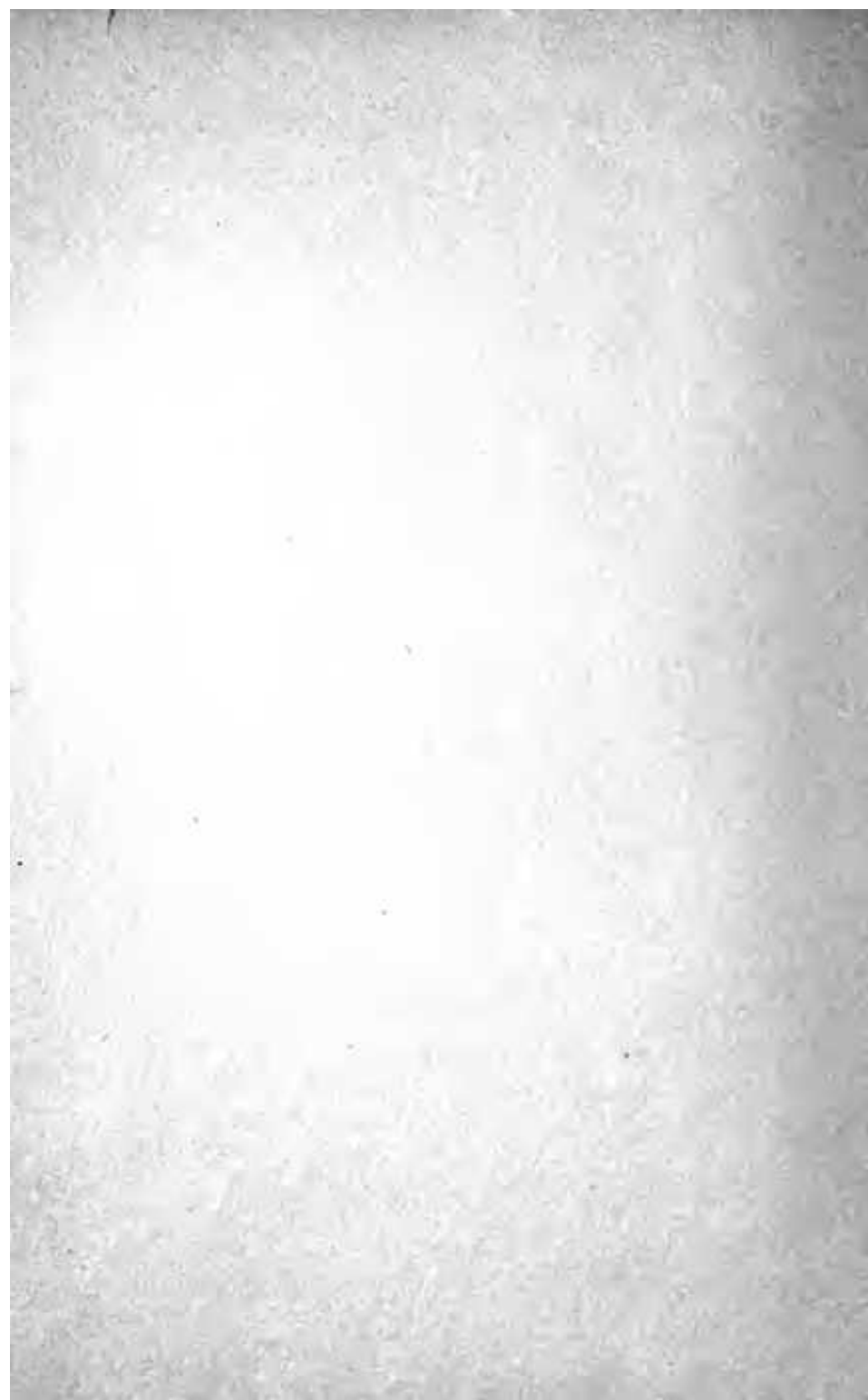
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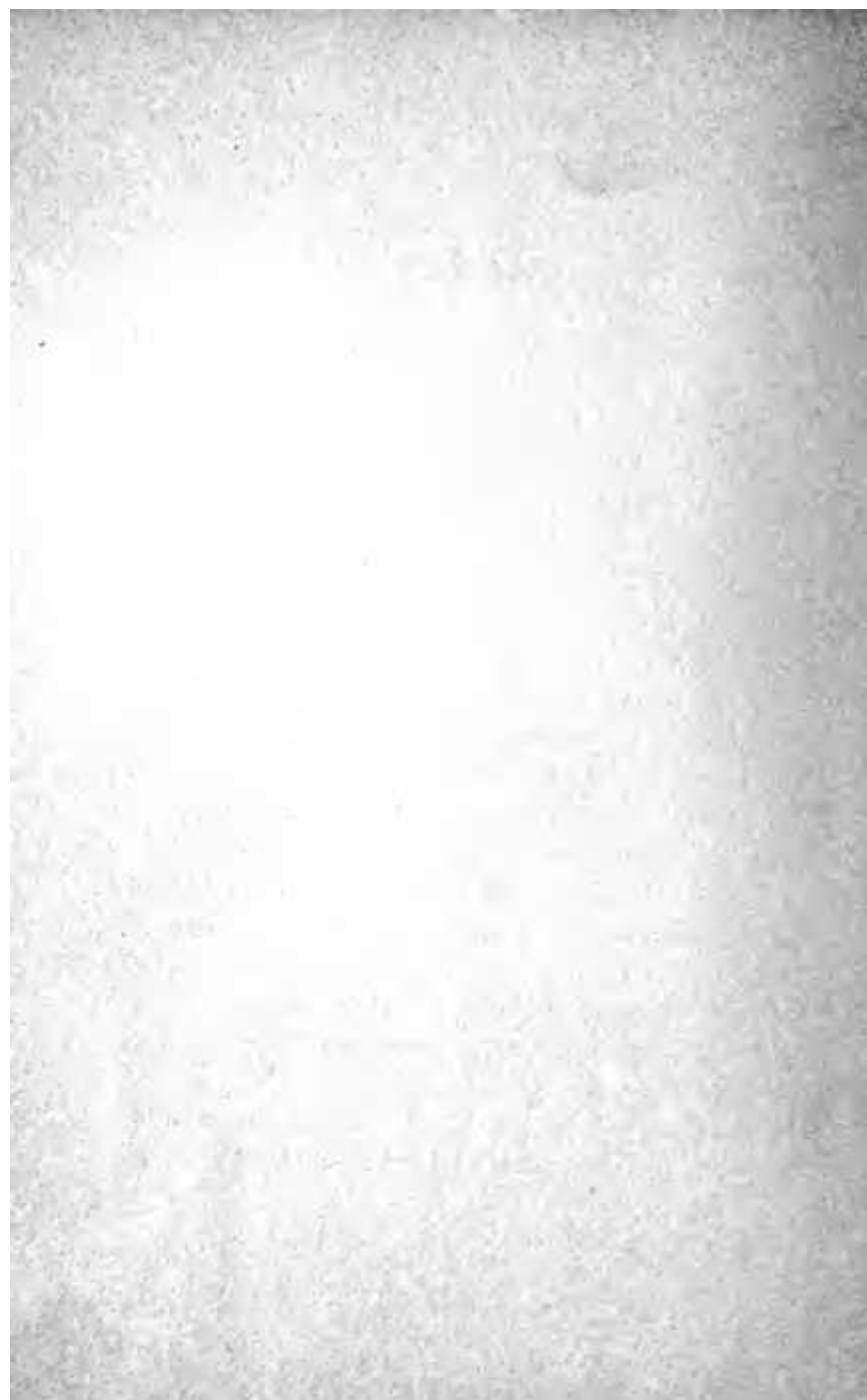
Printed in the U. S. A

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THE BARREL MYSTERY



CHAPTER I

THE BARREL MURDER

WHERE the East River swims around the foot of Eleventh Street is an old abandoned wooden dock that looks more like the broken skeleton of a buried wreck than the thing it used to be. A covey of barges are huddled against the wharf opposite, and this wharf gradually becomes solid pavement where the lumber yard begins. It fronts the street with the most dilapidated board fence in Christendom made up of broken odds and ends covered with a crazy patchwork of corrugated iron scrap stained and rusted by the weather. If an old-time pirate—one of those romantic devils with scarred and battered features and a black patch over one eye—should suddenly peer at you through one of the many cracks in the splintered stockade you could not be very surprised; in fact, you would almost expect it to happen.

Farther up is a livery stable, a mere hole in a pile of bricks, once red now slavered over with