

EL OMBÚ

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El Ombú by W. H. Hudson

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EL OMBÚ

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El Ombú by W. H. Hudson

Author of "Green Mansions," "The Purple Land," "A
Crystal Age," "A Little Boy Lost"



*Cada comarca en la tierra
Tiene su rasgo prominente,
Brasil tiene su sol ardiente,
Minas de plata el Perú:
Buenos Ayres—patria hermosa—
Tiene su Pampa grandiosa;
La Pampa tiene el Ombú.*

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TO MY FRIEND
R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM
(*"Singularísimo escritor inglés"*)

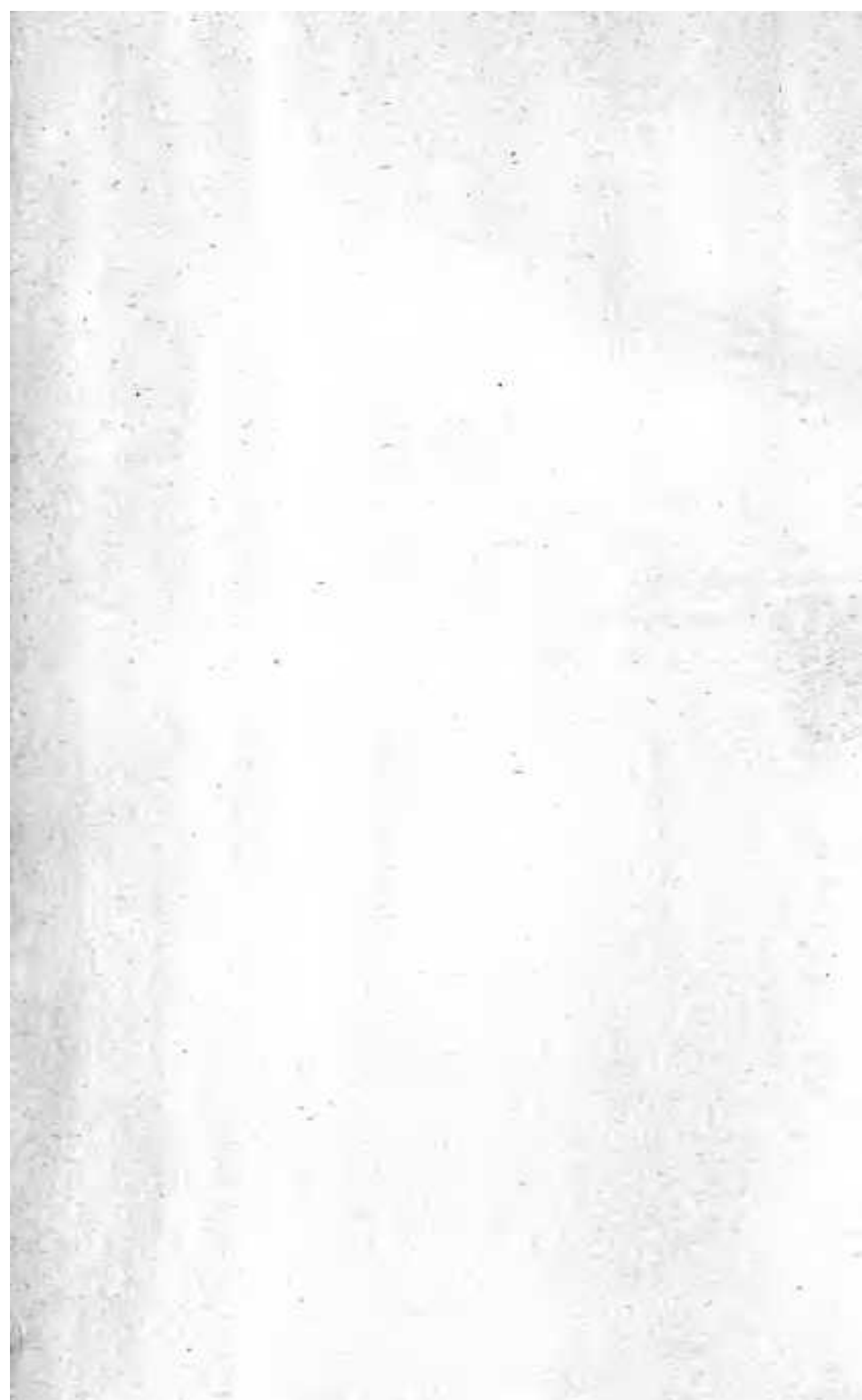
Who has lived with and knows (even to the marrow as they would themselves say) the horsemen of the Pampas, and who alone of European writers has rendered something of the vanishing colour of that remote life.

NOTE.

THE two short stories included in this volume are reprints :—the "Story of a Piebald Horse" from a book of travel and adventure in South America, long out of print ; the other, "Niño Diablo," is taken, by permission, from *Macmillan's Magazine*. The two long stories now appear for the first time, excepting only the incidents of the English invasion told in "El Ombú," and the Appendix to the same story, which formed part of an article describing the game of El Pato in the *Badminton Magazine*.

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EL OMBÚ.

This history of a house that had been was told in the shade, one summer's day, by Nicandro, that old man to whom we all loved to listen, since he could remember and properly narrate the life of every person he had known in his native place, near to the lake of Chascomus, on the southern pampas of Buenos Ayres.

IN all this district, though you should go twenty leagues to this way and that, you will not find a tree as big as this ombú, standing solitary, where there is no house; therefore it is known to all as "the ombú," as if but one existed; and the name of all this estate, which is now ownerless and ruined, is El Ombú. From one of the higher branches, if you can climb, you will see the lake of Chascomus, two thirds of a league away, from shore to shore, and the