

**KINGSDENE: A  
NOVEL; IN TWO  
VOLUMES. VOL. I**

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Kingsdene: a novel; In two volumes. Vol. I by Mrs. Fetherstonhaugh

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**MRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH**

**KINGSDENE: A  
NOVEL; IN TWO  
VOLUMES. VOL. I**



# KINGS DENE.

A Novel.

BY  
HON. MRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH,  
AUTHOR OF "KILCORRAN."

"Had no star ever appeared in the heavens, to man there would  
have been no heavens."—*De Quincey.*

IN TWO VOLUMES.  
VOL. I.



LONDON:  
RICHARD BENTLEY AND SON,  
Publishers in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen.  
1878.

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*Revised Sept 16, 1915*

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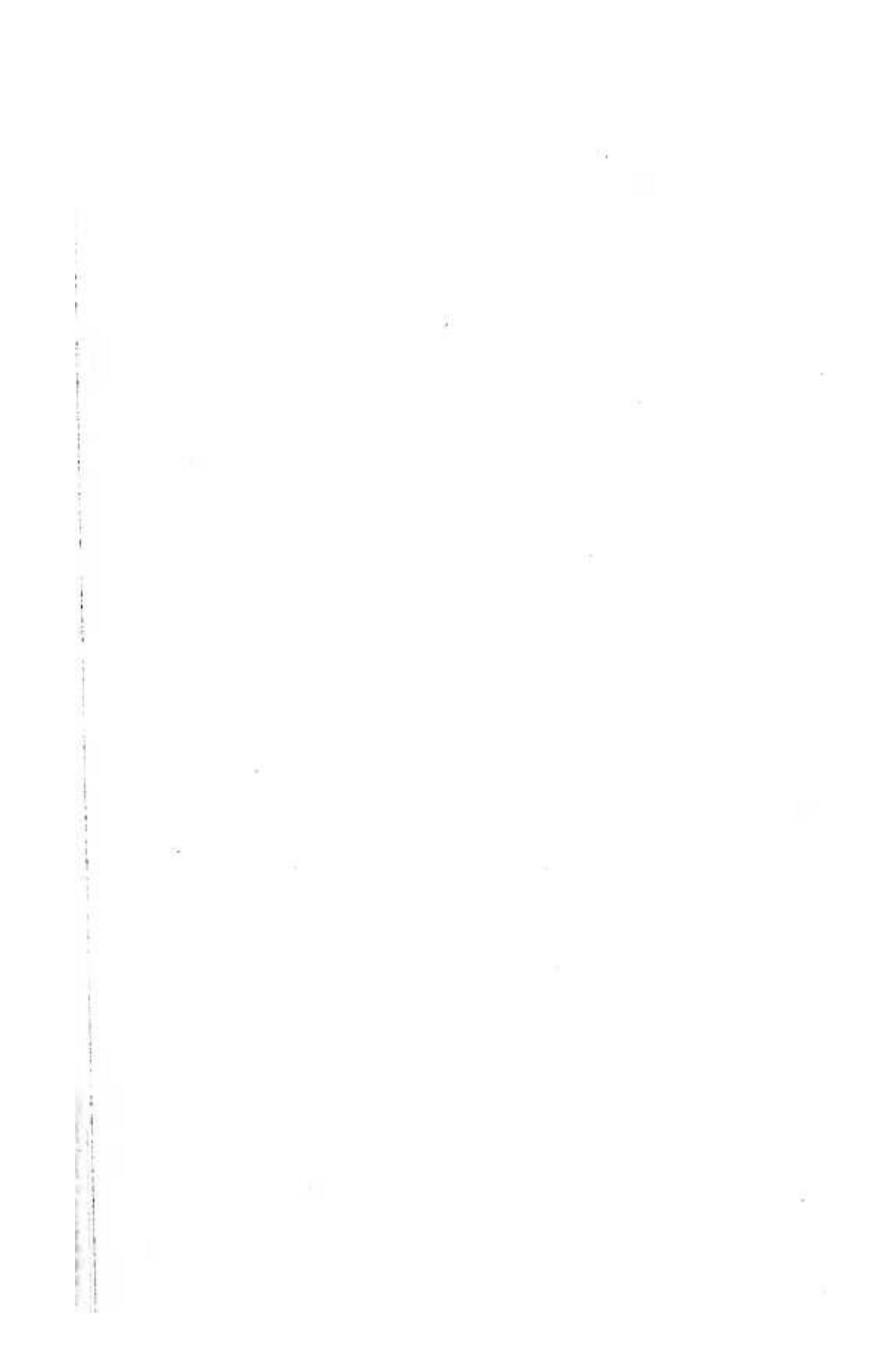
## CHAPTER I.

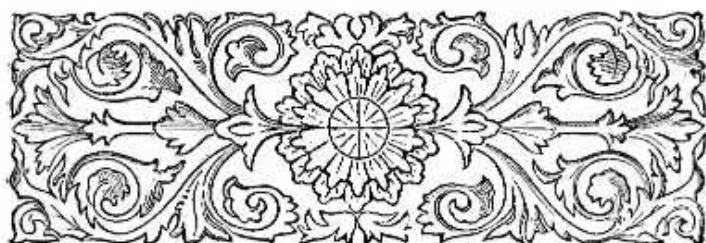
STELLA.

“Sculptors of life are we as we stand  
With our lives uncarved before us,  
Waiting the time when at God’s command  
Our life-dream shall pass o’er us.”









**T**is early on a bright June morning, and the little steamer *Electric*, from the north of Ireland to Liverpool, is slowly making her way up the Mersey towards the latter destination. In consequence of the quantity of shipping crowding the river, she is brought to a stop about once in every five minutes, and her weary and impatient passengers give utterance to many an audible moan and complaint.

One amongst their number, however, appears to take the unavoidable delay with stoical indifference, probably the result of his having already partaken of a cup of tea and a square foot of bread-and-butter, which renders him less clamorous for breakfast than his hungrier and more suffering brethren, whose constitutions have been somewhat shaken by the peculiar short roll of the little *Electric* when meeting the wind sideways off the Isle of Man at three a.m. that morning.

The said passenger is a tall, slight, fair young man of about five-and-twenty, who is leaning against the pile of luggage covered over with a tarpaulin, which encumbers the small steamer's deck, and listlessly observing the numerous vessels of