# AN INNOCENT SINNER; A PSYCHOLOGICAL ROMANCE, IN THREE VOLUMES, VOL. I

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An Innocent Sinner; A Psychological Romance, in Three Volumes, Vol. I by Mabel Collins

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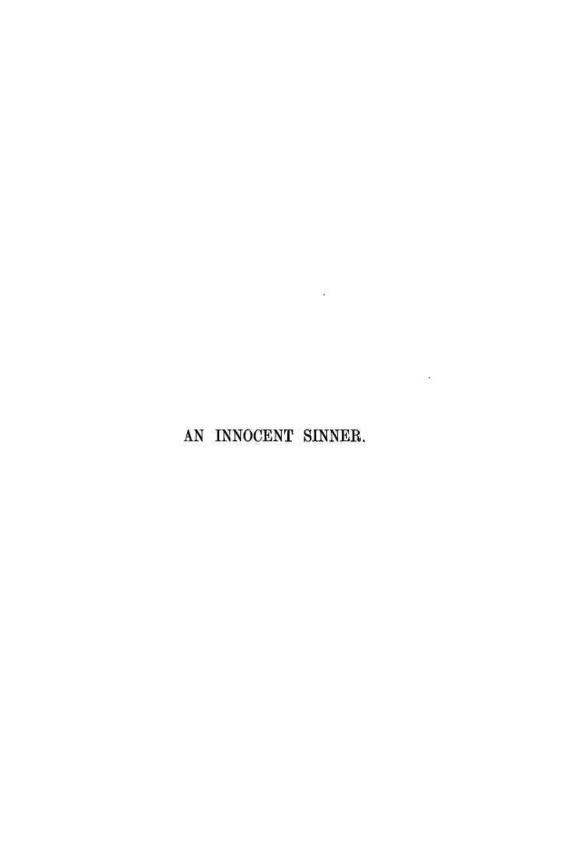
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# MABEL COLLINS

# AN INNOCENT SINNER; A PSYCHOLOGICAL ROMANCE, IN THREE VOLUMES, VOL. I





# AN INNOCENT SINNER.

A Psychological Momance.

BY

# MABEL COLLINS.

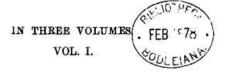
"We sit in smooth content with wonted mics!

Comes whirling by the awful UNYONINERS':

Throws our best balanced plans in hocus-pocus,
And turns short views of life all out of focus;

Shakes our self-centre, makes us well-awake—
Find where we are, and what new road to take."

Tracels of a Journeyman."



### LONDON:

TINSLEY BROTHERS, 8, CATHERINE ST., STRAND.

1877.

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### PREFACE.

In this story, which is based upon a situation that has afforded food for romancists from all time, the author has had to face the assertion of M. Dumas file, that on this subject, "It is absolutely necessary to say something new. . . . Predecessors have passed that way, and have shut the door behind them."

M. Emile Girardin had asked his opinion on a dramatic work, which his critic allowed to be clever; but, said he:— "We have all posed our conclusions on this eternal subject. Yours is not a conclusion at all." The present writer is prepared to be considered no more successful in this respect than M. Girardin!

M. Dumas instances well-known plays in which the same situation has been elaborated, and every conceivable mode of escape from it exhausted. The author of these volumes believes that in them a new combination is effected, by simply placing one of the actors in the little drama in a state in which people are conventionally supposed to give up all interest in this particular stage, and in the actors upon it. On this subject every one has an opinion; but within the covers of a novel let us lay aside opinions: we are in the world of romance.

Leaving behind the grosser life of the French school, the writer has dared to treat this situation from a purely psychological point of view.

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## AN INNOCENT SINNER.

"Astrologos. I have known men who died, and came to life again;

I have known men who died, and came to death again;
I have known men who neither lived nor died at all,
But were pure phantoms, shadows on the atmosphere.
Raphael. Poor ghosts! who shivered through the
world."

' The Comedy of Dreams.' Mortimer Collins.

### CHAPTER I.

### THE DOCTOR AT HOME.

"Crabbed age and youth Cannot live together."

Sandville is a tolerably brisk country town; being near enough to London to attract many city men as residents in the summer months, it catches a savour of the quick metropolitan life. At the same time it has

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