

**MASTER
EUSTACE**

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Master Eustace by Henry James

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HENRY JAMES

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By
HENRY JAMES



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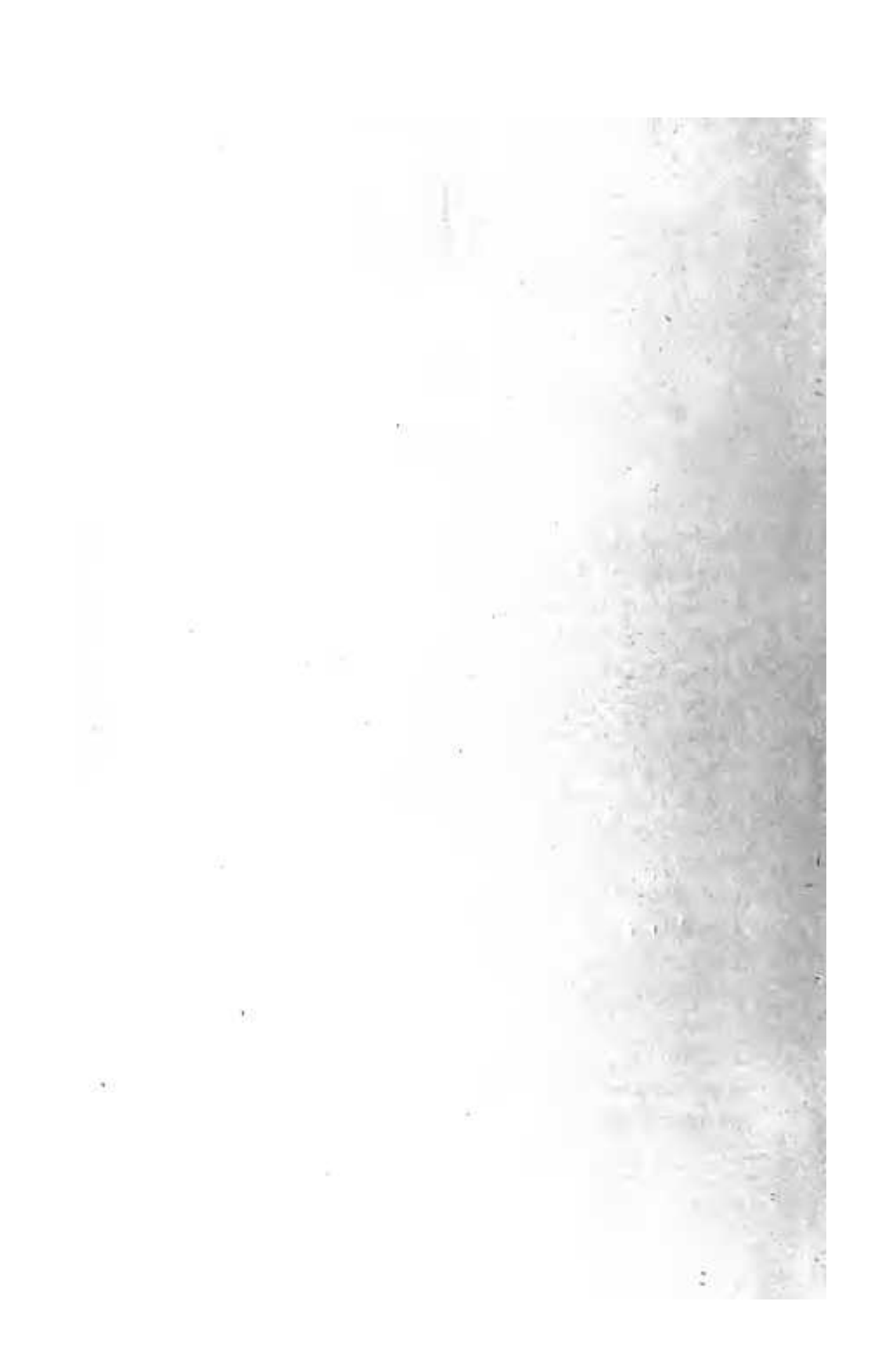
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PREFACE

The five stories in this volume, together with the four included in "A Landscape Painter," appeared originally in American periodicals, but for some unknown reason were never issued by Henry James in book form in this country. The present volume, along with "A Landscape Painter," makes accessible to the American public the nine short stories of Henry James which hitherto have been accessible only in English editions of his works.

I hardly need to emphasize the literary value of the stories in this volume—all of them written later than "A Landscape Painter." Both critics and public have expressed surprise at the amazing precocity of Henry James as shown in the tales of "A Landscape Painter," all of which were written before the author was twenty-five. The stories in the present collection are more mature in matter, yet they retain his earlier simplicity of style. Two of them were written when he was almost verging towards "the middle years."

"Longstaff's Marriage" (*Scribner's Monthly*, August 1878) and "Benvolio" (*Galaxy*, August 1875) appeared in the "Madonna of the Future and Other Tales," published in London, 1879. "Benvolio" also appeared in the English edition of Henry James's "Collection of Novels and Tales" brought out in 1883. The other three tales in this volume, "Master Eustace" (*Galaxy*, November 1871), "Théodolinde" (*Lippincott's Magazine*, May 1878), and "A Light Man" (*Galaxy*, July 1869) appeared in "Stories Revived" issued in three volumes in London in 1885. The tale "Théodolinde" was published there with the title "Rose Agathe." "A Light Man" has also been reprinted from *The Galaxy* in America in a collection of short stories, "Stories by American Authors," Volume V, 1884, but not in any American editions of Henry James's works.

Like the tales in "A Landscape Painter," these stories are reprinted from the periodicals wherein they first appeared and not from the English editions. Of the nine tales I have collected here and in "A Landscape Painter," seven were published by James in England in "Stories Revived," constituting half of that collection.

From an autobiographical point of view, the most interesting tale in this volume is "Benvolio." The poet Benvolio is evidently a bit of self-portraiture. Not that Henry James had the identical experience