

**AN APRIL DAY, A
NOVEL. IN TWO
VOLUMES, VOL. I**

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An April Day, a Novel. In Two Volumes, Vol. I by Philippa Prittie Jephson

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PHILIPPA PRITTIE JEPHSON

**AN APRIL DAY, A
NOVEL. IN TWO
VOLUMES, VOL. I**

AN APRIL DAY.

A NOVEL.

BY

PHILIPPA PRITIE JEPHSON,

AUTHOR OF "LORD FARLEIGH."

"O how this spring of love resembleth
The uncertain glory of an April day!
Which now shows all the beauty of the sun,
And by and by a cloud takes all away."

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON: F. V. WHITE & CO.,
31 SOUTHAMPTON STREET, STRAND, W.C.

1883.

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251. k. 352

TO

William R. Le Fanu, Esq.

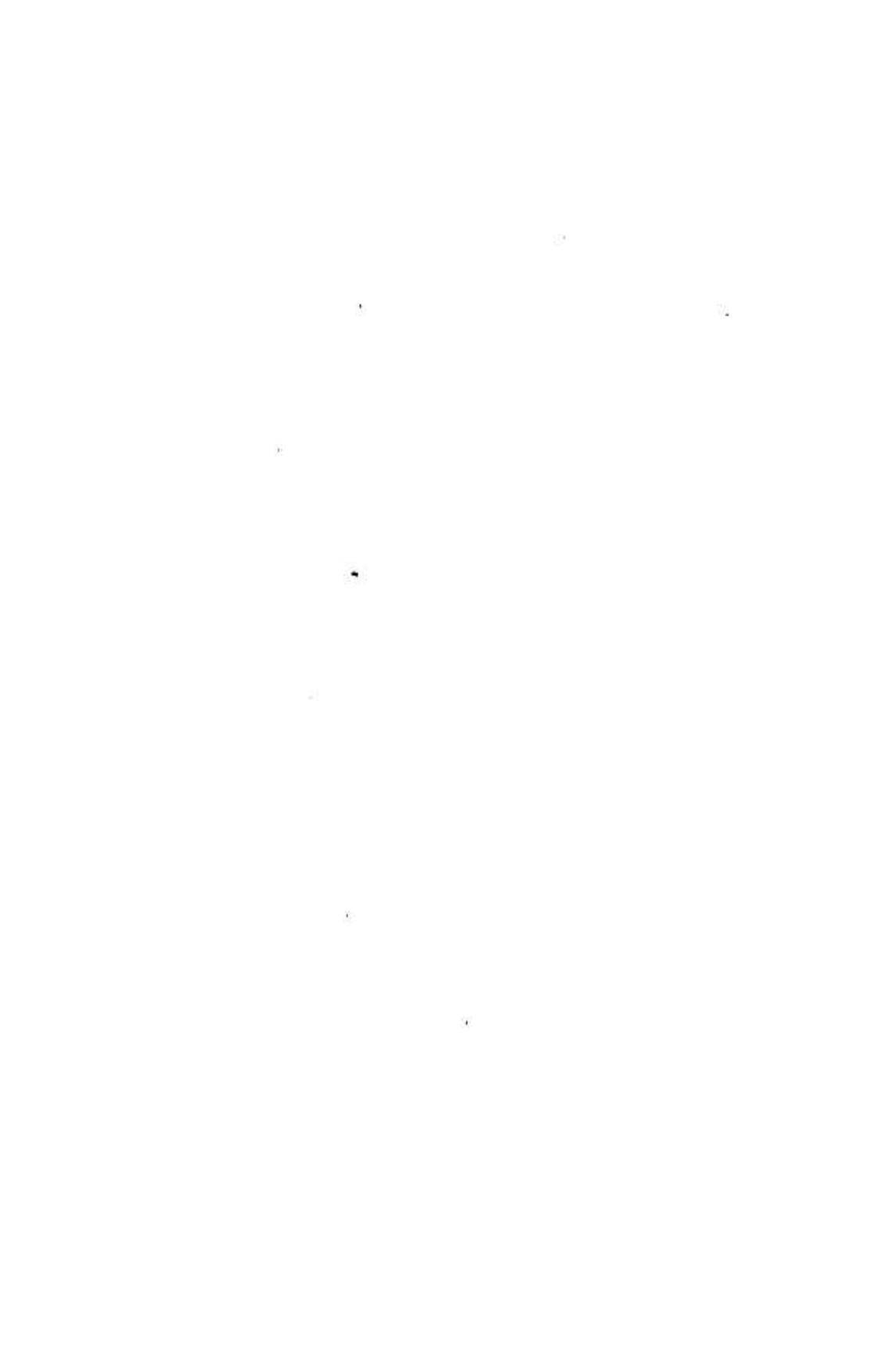
DEAR MR LE FANU,

I dedicate this book to you,
in remembrance of the many delightful
hours passed in your society, and ask
your permission to call myself

Your attached and grateful Friend,

PHILIPPA JEPHSON.

GLENBROOK, ENNISKERRY,
February 1883.





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AN APRIL DAY.

CHAPTER I

THE SPIRIT OF THE WOODS.

“He turned—but lo! like a startled bird the spirit fled, and he only heard sweet music.” . . .

AMONG the hills in one of the western counties of Ireland lies Glencullin, a wooded ravine of about a mile and a-half in length, through which a wild mountain stream foams and tumbles over its rocky bed, running now and again into a deep pool such as a fisherman loves where the overhanging boughs

cast wavering lines of green on the smooth surface of the water, and the ferns hang luxuriantly down over the rocks, and dip their slender points in the brown water like thirsty creatures taking a draught; and then on again over a fresh stretch of rocks and broken timber, till, with a rush, it sweeps under the bridge that spans the entrance of the glen, and emerging into the green fields that lie below, becomes a placid stream,

“Seeming still, yet still in motion,”

as it glides gently round its furze-covered banks on its way to the far-off ocean.

The glen is wild and picturesque from its utter loneliness. There are patches of brake and underwood, with here and there a space of open ground, fresh and damply green, with some giant tree standing in