

THE WILDCAT

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The Wildcat by Hugh Wiley

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HUGH WILEY

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BY
HUGH WILEY

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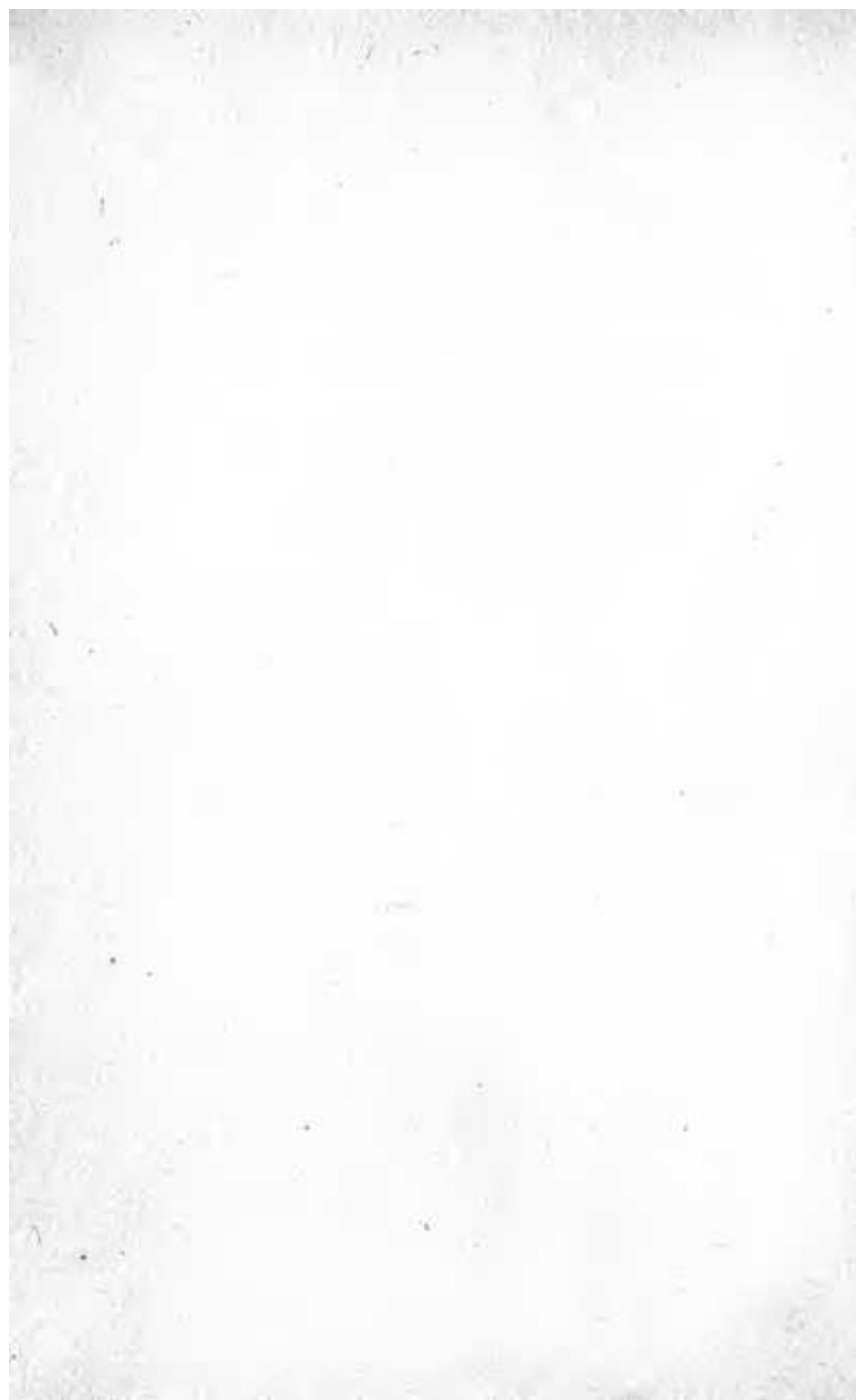
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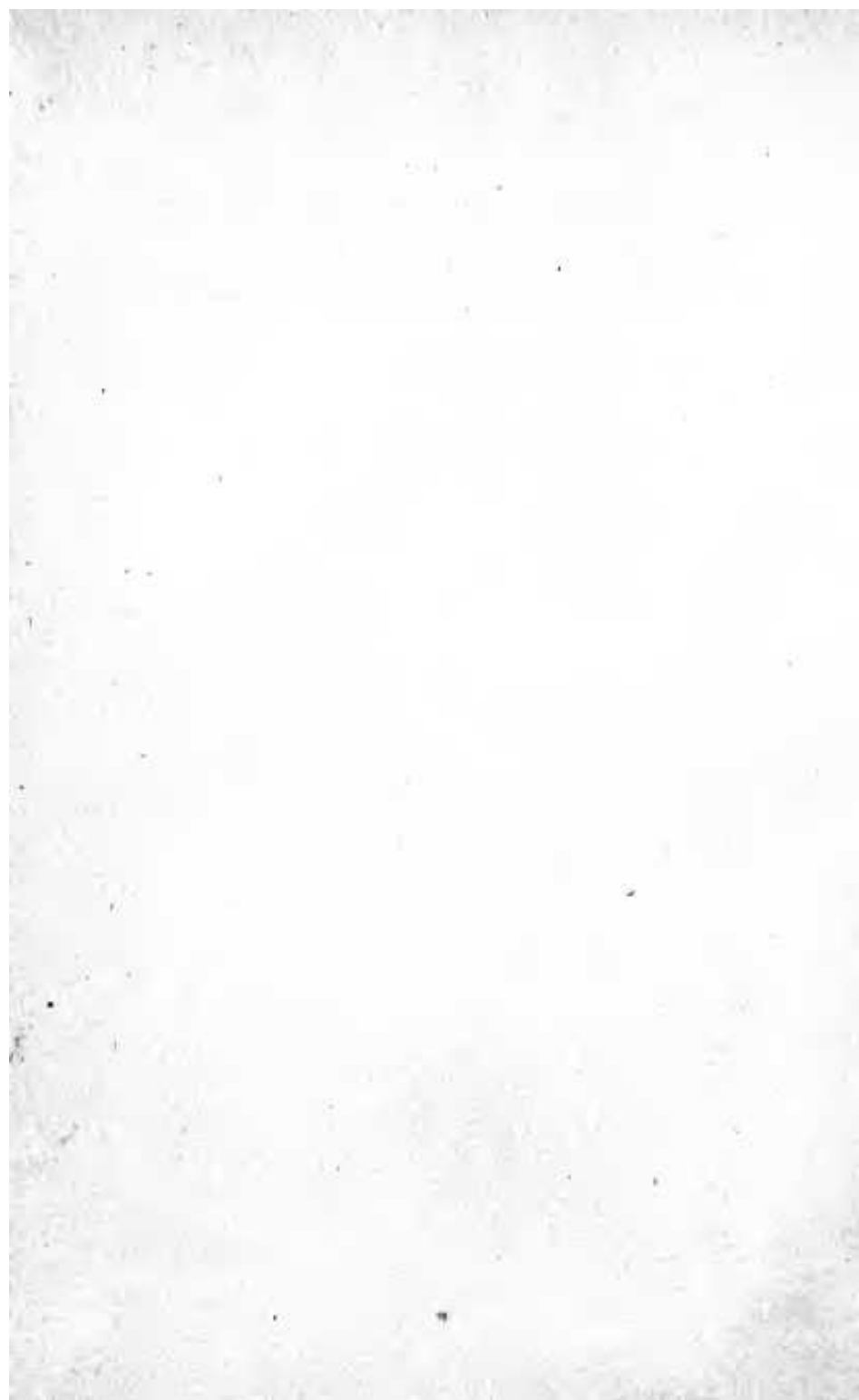
TO
CHARLES ARTHUR PAUSON

"Boy, how come?"

"You knows how come."



THE WILDCAT



UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

THE WILDCAT

CHAPTER I

I

"I don't bother work, work don't bother me,
I'se fo' times as happy as a buh-humble beee-e.
I eats when I kin git it, sleeps mos' all de time
I don't give a doggone if de sun don't neveh shine——"

Vitus Marsden proclaimed to the world the content that filled his heart. Work was good enough for field hands and river niggers. Cutting the lawns that fronted white folks' residences on Legal Hill or taking an occasional r'ar at the gallopin' dominoes when the sevens and 'levens were feelin' anxious to oblige a boy were the sources of an income sufficient for the day. And no man has seen to-morrow.

Vitus walked along a shaded back street. The sidewalk was made of soft red brick that wore down unevenly so that young grass-cut-