

**THE MIDNIGHT
JOURNEY, AND
OTHER TALES**

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The Midnight Journey, and Other Tales by Various

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VARIOUS

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(Reprinted from 'Chambers's Journal.')



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THE MIDNIGHT JOURNEY.

BY LEITCH RITCHIE.

I HAVE lived a very wandering life. When quite a boy, I was taken from school to be consigned to the care of a near kinsman in the West Indies. In two years this gentleman died insolvent, and I tried successively several of the greater islands without finding a permanent place for my foot. I next found my way to the Spanish Main, but in the company of loose and daring speculators, rather than in the regular mercantile employment for which I had been intended; and several years were passed in a course of adventure and vicissitude, many portions of which would seem too wildly improbable for romance. In the other division of the New World, I was carried by my wandering destiny along the whole of the Mexican range of coast, and passed nearly two years in California. In the course of this time I visited several of the islands both in the North and South Pacific, and at a subsequent period hunted the sea-otter,