

**FROM AN ISLAND;
A STORY AND
SOME ESSAYS**

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From an island; a story and some essays by Anne Thackeray Ritchie

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ANNE THACKERAY RITCHIE

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A STORY AND
SOME ESSAYS**

FROM AN ISLAND

A STORY
AND SOME ESSAYS.

BY

MISS THACKERAY,
AUTHOR OF "THE STORY OF ELIZABETH," ETC.

*Public, Anna
Isabella*

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LEIPZIG
BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1877.

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1877

TO
ALFRED & EMILY TENNYSON

AT FARRINGFORD, ISLE OF WIGHT.

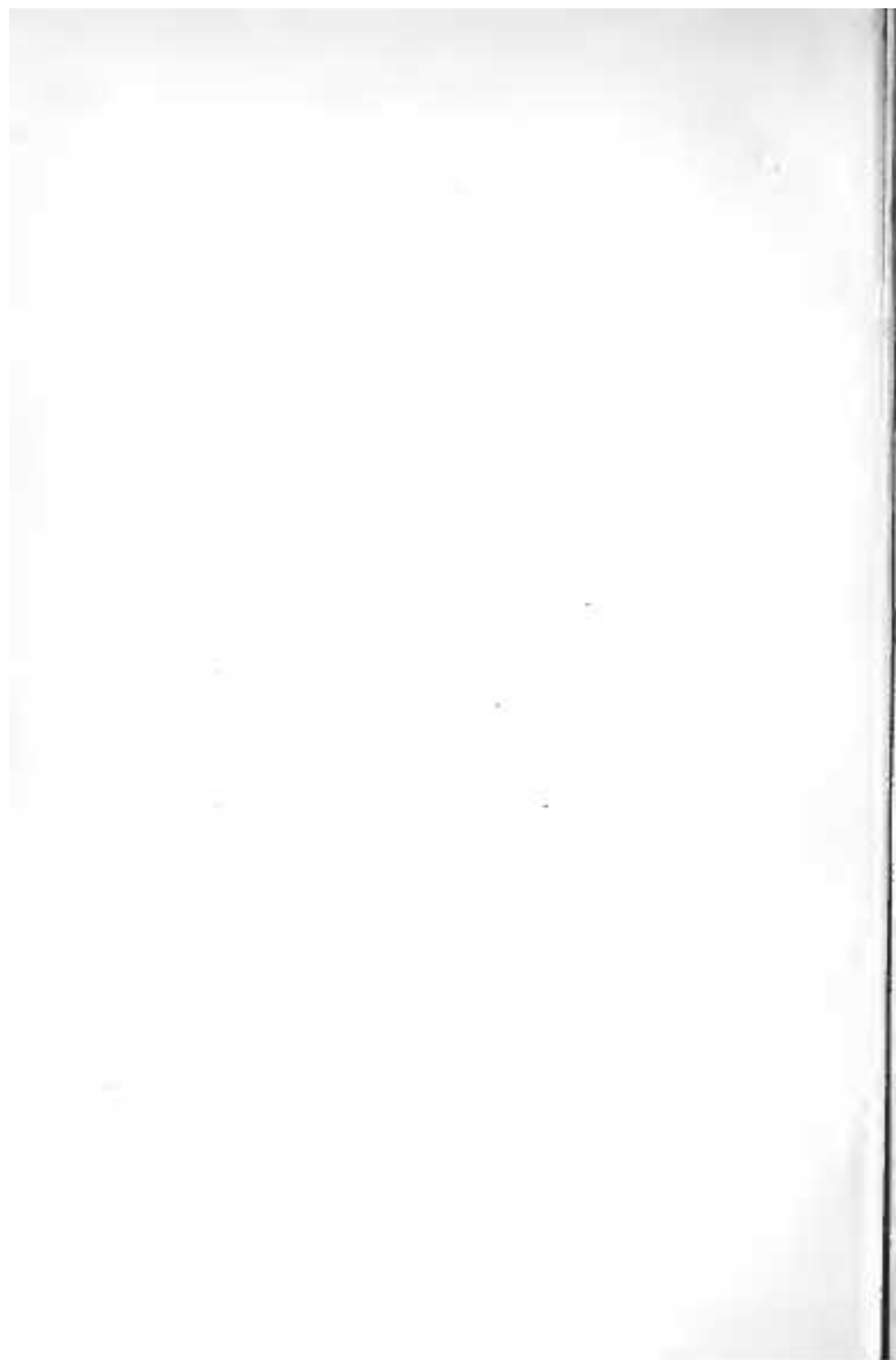
Your name is loved and honoured in a Kingdom which extends far beyond the sleepy silver confines of the little Island where we have all been so happy at times, living round about your home. Allegiance to you comes as an inheritance to me and mine from one who was himself much loved, much honoured. The most generous and the greatest can render best tribute unto Caesar; others whose tribute is less worth, but who have lived under his kind and noble rule during long years of unchanging countenance and friendship, can at least love the name of Tennyson and write it with gratitude and tenderest respect.

S.P. 29. 1877.



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FROM AN ISLAND.

PART I.

I.

THE long room was full of people sitting quietly in the twilight. Only one lamp was burning at the far end. The verandah outside was dim with shadow; between each leafy arch there glimmered a line of sea and of down. It was a grey still evening, sad, with distant storms. St. Julian, the master of the house, was sitting under the verandah, smoking, with William, the eldest son. The mother and Mrs. William were on a sofa together, talking in a low voice over one thing and another. Hester was sitting at the piano with her hands in her lap, looking music, though she was not playing, with her white dress quivering in the gloom. Lord Uleskeff, who had come over to see us, was talking to Emifia, the married daughter, and to Aileen, the youngest of the three; while I and my own little girl and the other little ones were playing at the end of the room at a sort of twilight game of beating hands and singing sing-song nursery-rhymes,—hay-making the children called it.

"Are there any letters?" said St. Julian, looking in at them all from his verandah. "Has Emmy got hers?"