

**COLLECTION OF BRITISH
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VOL. 1732. THE LIFTED VEIL AND
BROTHER JACOB: AND, BROTHER
JACOB. IN ONE VOLUME**

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And, Brother Jacob. In One Volume by George Eliot

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GEORGE ELIOT

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BY
GEORGE ELIOT.

IN ONE VOLUME.

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THE LIFTED VEIL
AND
BROTHER JACOB

BY

GEORGE ELIOT,
AUTHOR OF "ADAM BEDE," "DANIEL DERONDA,"
ETC. ETC.

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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1878.

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THE LIFTED VEIL.

Give me no light, great Heaven, but such as turns
To energy of human fellowship;
No powers beyond the growing heritage
That makes completer manhood.

CHAPTER I.

THE time of my end approaches. I have lately been subject to attacks of *angina pectoris*; and in the ordinary course of things, my physician tells me, I may fairly hope that my life will not be protracted many months. Unless, then, I am cursed with an exceptional physical constitution, as I am cursed with an exceptional mental character, I shall not much longer groan under the wearisome burthen of this earthly existence. If it were to be otherwise—if I were to live on to the age most men desire and provide for—I should for once have known whether the miseries of delusive expectation can outweigh the miseries of true prevision. For I foresee

when I shall die, and everything that will happen in my last moments.

Just a month from this day, on the 20th of September 1850, I shall be sitting in this chair, in this study, at ten o'clock at night, longing to die, weary of incessant insight and foresight, without delusions and without hope. Just as I am watching a tongue of blue flame rising in the fire, and my lamp is burning low, the horrible contraction will begin at my chest. I shall only have time to reach the bell, and pull it violently, before the sense of suffocation will come. No one will answer my bell. I know why. My two servants are lovers, and will have quarrelled. My housekeeper will have rushed out of the house in a fury, two hours before, hoping that Perry will believe she has gone to drown herself. Perry is alarmed at last, and is gone out after her. The little scullery-maid is