

**A SUCCESSFUL  
MAN**

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A Successful Man by Julien Gordon

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# SUCCESSFUL MAN

BY

JULIEN GORDON

AUTHOR OF "A DIPLOMAT'S DIARY," ETC.

*pseud of  
Cruger, Julie Grinnell (Storror)*

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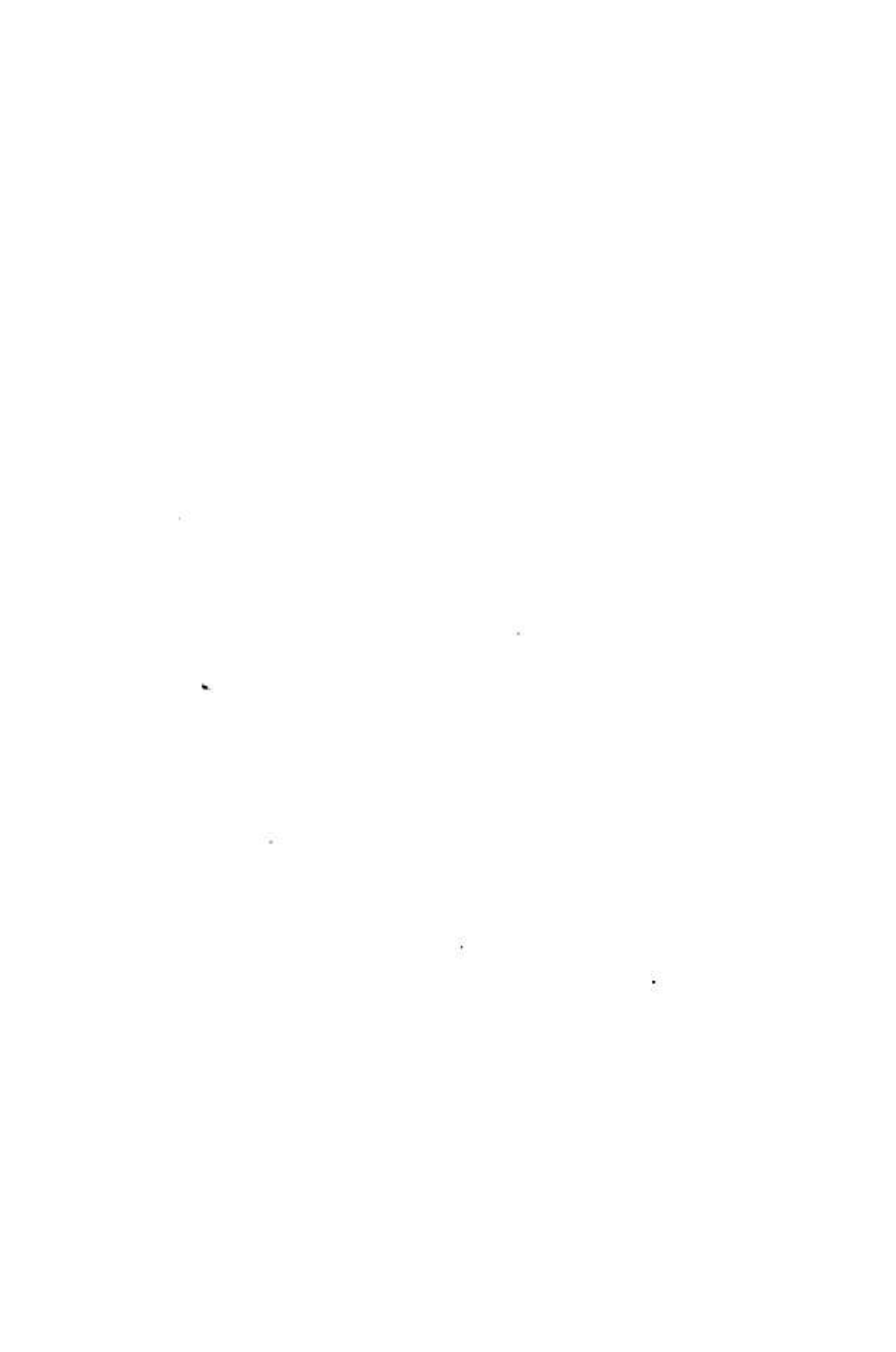


I DEDICATE THIS STORY  
TO  
TITUS MUNSON COAN,

WHOSE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MY LITERARY  
EFFORTS I THUS

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE.





# A SUCCESSFUL MAN

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## CHAPTER I.

THE homestead stood under the hill close to the main road which led into the town. It could not be termed a pretty house, nor was it even solid or imposing. It was big and meretricious, in that pretentious villa style which was the rage forty years ago, when the colonial architecture had gone out of fashion and Queen Anne had not yet been awakened; there were wood turrets which were meaningless, verandas which looked out on nothing in particular, and porches which led nowhere. Hundreds of such houses disfigure nature all over the United States. Where, through fidelity or economy, their owners have not tampered with them, they are hopeless; they are hideous when they are embellished. One

thing, indeed, can be said in their favor: they have usually high ceilings, wide doors, and generous windows admitting plenty of light and air, and their rooms are often large and sweetly cool. Queen Anne evidently laid no stress on "stiffness;" she was not accustomed to America in August.

Of this particular structure it might be said that the inside was pleasant enough; not exactly elegant or even cosey, but fresh, wholesome, and, on the whole, comfortable. The grounds which environed it and where the children played—there were about twenty acres counting the adjacent meadow—were really quite charming. There was soft mossy turf, plenty of shade, a variety of fine thrifty old trees, and a general aspect of careful gardening. The fences were excellent, and the orchard which lay behind the house was full of fruit. A profusion of flowers bloomed on each side of the garden-paths. There was nothing so picturesque as a barn-yard, although invisible hens proclaimed themselves and three Holsteins browsed in the pasture lot.