AN EXILE FROM POLAND

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An Exile from Poland by Ringgold McCay

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RINGGOLD MCCAY

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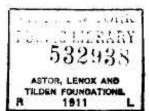
EXILE FROM POLAND.

BY

. RINGGOLD McCAY.

NEW YORK: ROGERS & SHERWOOD, 21 & 23 BARCLAY ST.

1877.



TO

MR. GEORGE E. HALL, PRESIDENT,

AND TO THE .

Everett Ziterary Association.

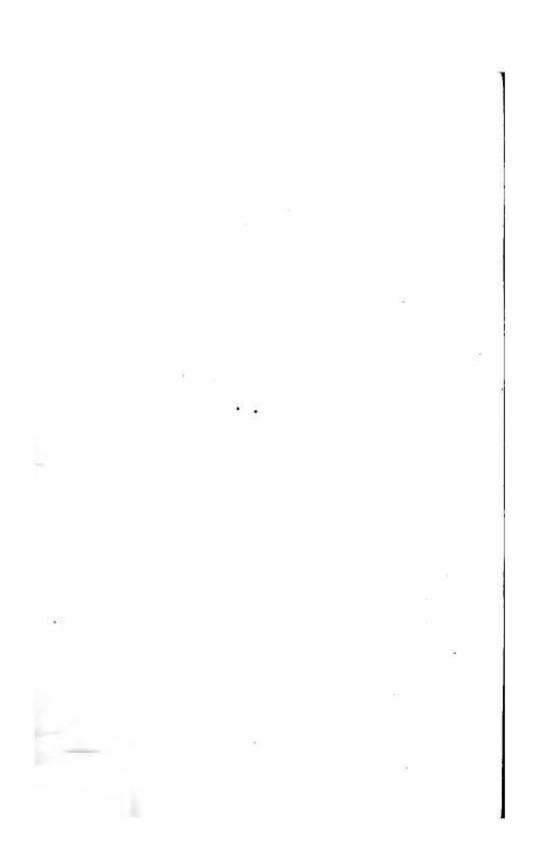
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This Volume is Pedicated

BY.

A LOYAL MEMBER.

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PREFACE.

THE incidents on which this story—"An Exile from Poland"—is founded are true, and will be well remembered by many of the friends of the author's youth in the South.

The town in which the earlier scenes are laid is one of those beautiful villages for which Georgia was noted among the Southern States.

There, in the prosperous days, before the tread of a hostile army had laid waste the tributary fields, and bankruptcy and ruin had fallen on the land, was one of those communities which probably existed nowhere but in the South—a condition of civilization which will go down to history as the Utopia of which men of other lands and other ages dreamed but never saw.

Being the county site of a rich and fertile district, cultivated to the highest degree by prosperous cotton planters, it boasted two colleges, a male and a female, and a grade of society which for elegance of manners, high morality and intellectual culture would bear favorable comparison with the richest city in the Union, and beggary and vagabondage were

Notwithstanding the passage of the railroad through the town, the presence of a stranger, and especially a foreigner, was a matter of curiosity and interest to the youth, who had no diversion, when not at school, but hunting and fishing, or whiling away the summer hours at chess or backgammon under the shade of the locust trees. It is not, therefore, strange that I made the acquaintance of the hero of my story soon after he arrived in our quiet village, whither he had wandered seeking "respite and nepenthe." Nor is it more strange that, being a man of pleasing address and a wonderful musician, with a history shrouded in the deepest mystery, he should have possessed a great fascination for a boy of ten years-such as the author was at the time he first chanced to meet this melancholy stranger-who from that time forth refused all companionship save that of his juvenile friend.

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