THE ISLAND OF THE RAINBOW: A FAIRY TALE, AND OTHER FANCIES

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The Island of the Rainbow: A Fairy Tale, and Other Fancies by Mrs. Newton Crosland

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MRS. NEWTON CROSLAND

THE ISLAND OF THE RAINBOW: A FAIRY TALE, AND OTHER FANCIES





"The great Court ladies declared that they would never dance on anything thicker than a smooth elastic spider's web."—p. 8.

THE

ISLAND OF THE RAINBOW.

3 fairy Cale.

AND

OTHER FANCIES.

MRS. NEWTON CROSLAND,
AUTHOR OF "MRS. BLAKE," "HILDRED THE DAUGHTER," ETC.

ILLUSTRATED.

"Such shaping fantasies, that apprehend

More than cool reason ever comprehends."

A Midsummer Night's Dream.

LONDON:

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS, BROADWAY, LUDGATE HILL. 1866.

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TO

THE CHILDREN OF

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Ward,

WHOSE NAMES ARE HONOUSED

WHEREVER

ART IS APPRECIATED

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THE ISLAND OF THE RAINBOW.

CHAPTER I.

How the Fairpland's End was broken off.

"We shall have shortly discord in the spheres."
SHAKESPEARE—As You Like It.



time, a strange and sudden accident happened in Fairyland. A piece of the solid mainland was broken sharp off, and sailed away for I cannot tell you

how long a time, till it came to the confines of

our part of the world, when it settled down as an island just where the rainbow dips into the sea.

Fairyland was ruled over by Oberon and Titania then, just as it is now. Of course you know all about that Fairy King and Queen, and how they had a quarrel once, which, as quarrels generally do, caused all sorts of mischief. However, they were young and inexperienced at that time, and I suppose hot tempered; but, at any rate, they soon "made it up," and their reconciliation was a very pretty affair. No doubt they have lived quite happily ever since, or some mischief-making sprite, loving gossip and evil speaking, would have been sure to bring us the tidings of another dispute.

But I must tell you the way in which the accident happened. Oberon had gone to the wars, leaving Titania Queen Regent in his absence. She had rather wished to retain,