

**COLLECTION OF BRITISH AUTHORS.
TAUCHNITZ EDITION. VOLUME 1685.
TYROL AND THE
TYROLESE: THE PEOPLE AND THE LAND
IN THEIR SOCIAL, SPORTING, AND
MOUNTAINEERING ASPECTS**

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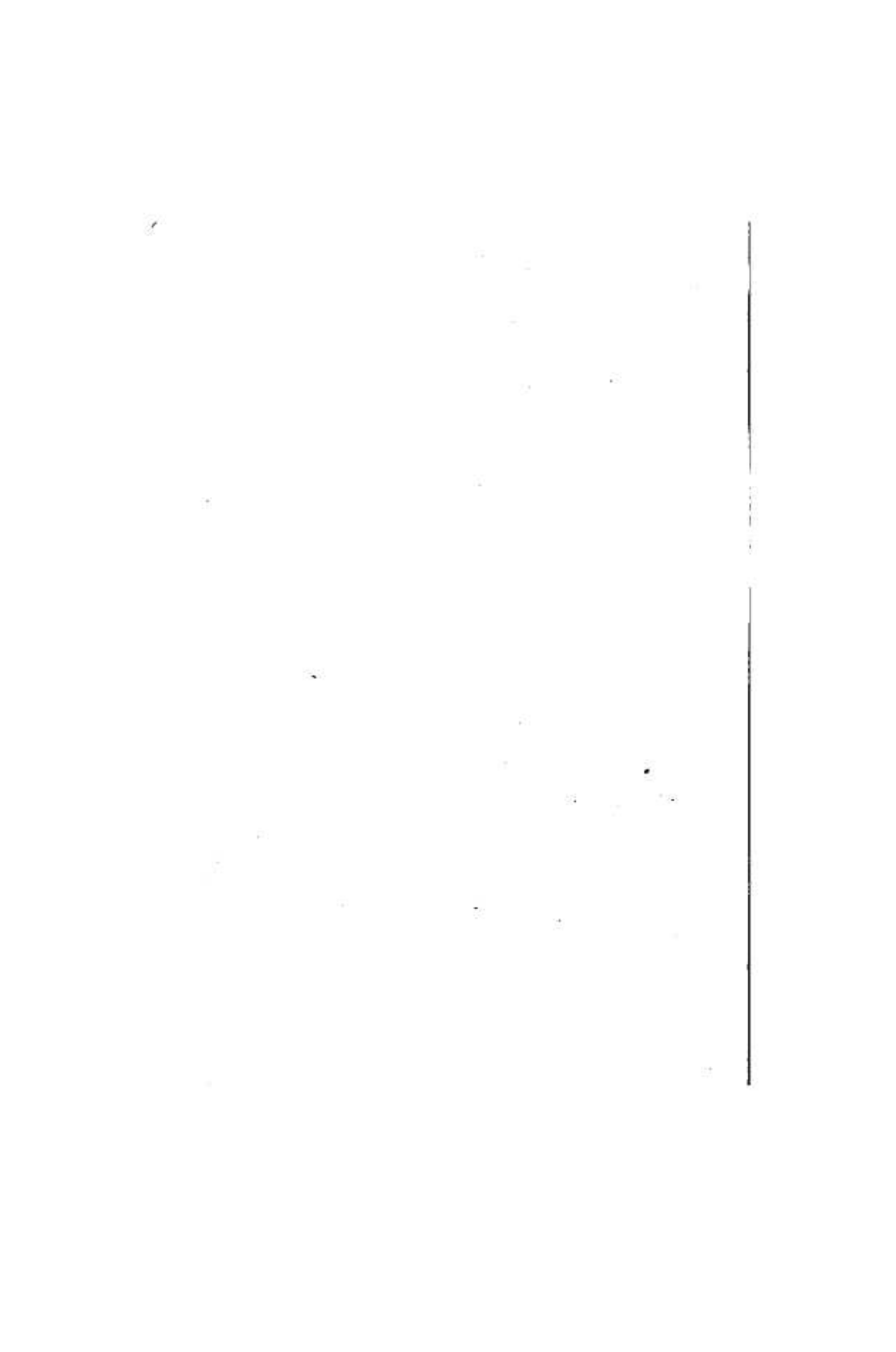
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VOL. 1685.

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BY
W. A. BAILLIE GROHMAN.

IN ONE VOLUME.



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Cambridge

PREFACE
TO
THE SECOND EDITION.

IN LAYING the second edition of "Tyrol and the Tyrolese" before the public, it becomes my duty—one of the most pleasant that fall to the lot of an author—to express my sense of gratitude for the kind praise bestowed on my book.

In preparing the second edition, I have taken pains to remedy the errors and misprints that had crept in, and nothing would be left for me to say were it not my wish to touch upon a charge brought by my reviewers, not against me, but, what is tantamount to it in my eyes, against the people of "the land in the mountains."

This race, my critics say, are, according to the account I give of them, a treacherously cruel people. It is naturally difficult to refute a charge of this kind in the face of the ample evidence of the rough and shaggy coat that hides the finer points of the

Tyrolese character from the gaze of the stranger. I must beg them, however, to remember that in bringing out the national character as fully as I did I was mainly prompted by the wish to convey a perfectly truthful picture to my reader's mind. This desire led me, I am afraid, to dwell too long upon the dark sides of the question: roughness and a certain freedom of morals.

Eye-gouging and biting off one's opponent's fingers, rarely as these casualties occur now-a-days in Tyrol, are undoubtedly cruel and reprehensible expedients in a free fight; but let me ask my critics would they call the English a treacherous and cruel people because in England kicking a wife to death or brutally ill-treating a defenceless man are daily occurrences?

The amount of respect shown to the female sex is generally considered to be a true criterion for the nobleness of man's character; and if this rule is allowed to hold good for nations at large, I have to own, Englishman as I am, that the Tyrolese need not dread a comparison. Whatever be the faults of the staunch old race dwelling in the recesses of the Tyrolese Alps, treacherous or cowardly cruelty certainly does not rank amongst them.

LONDON: July 1877.

PREFACE

TO

THE FIRST EDITION.

A CERTAIN VALUE may, I hope, be imparted to this volume by the fact that I have lived for many years in the Tyrol, and being by parentage half an Austrian, and as well acquainted with the German language as with my mother tongue, am therefore more likely to gain a true insight into the lives and characters of the Tyrolese than most writers on the same subject, who have not this advantage.

My love for sport and a sound bodily constitution have gone hand in hand in enabling me to acquire an accurate acquaintance with the rough fashions of this picturesque country; and while they have brought me across many an odd character lost to the world in some out-of-the-way nook among these little-known mountains and valleys, I have had many adventures, some of which I have endeavoured to relate in the following pages.