

**FLESH &  
SPIRIT. A NOVEL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649584925

Flesh & Spirit. A Novel by George James Atkinson Coulson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**GEORGE JAMES ATKINSON COULSON**

**FLESH &  
SPIRIT. A NOVEL**



# FLESH & SPIRIT.

A NOVEL.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE ODD TRUMP," "HARWOOD," "THE LACY  
DIAMONDS," ETC.



New York:  
E. J. HALE & SON, PUBLISHERS,  
MURRAY STREET.  
1876.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1876, by  
E. J. HALE & SON,  
in the office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.

PS

1449

C 629f

## PREFACE.

---

In criticising an American Novel, a late writer remarked that it was impossible to construct a Romance that should depict even a few distinguishing traits in American character. The diversities separating sections of this great country are, perhaps, as strongly marked as those that distinguish different nationalities in Europe. And in the social lives and habits of the many classes, constantly increasing in America, and constantly diverging more and more distinctly from any established standard, the romance writer may find types enough to fill a series of Novels, while he cannot exhaust the supply in an ordinary lifetime.

The present volume does not even attempt the analysis of character. In so far as ethical or philosophical questions are touched at all, they are only touched as incidental parts of the narrative. All temptation to descriptive writing has been steadfastly resisted, and the only effort has been to draw, in outline, a few characters for the reader's entertainment.

NEW YORK, *May*, 1876.

892601





## CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
CHAPTER I. The Storm.....	7
II. The Travelers.....	12
III. Mrs. Norman.....	16
IV. The Ruthvens.....	21
V. Miss Abby Keith.....	25
VI. Rupert's Commission.....	30
VII. Two Soliloquies.....	34
VIII. Helen.....	38
IX. Dutchy.....	43
X. Vendetta.....	48
XI. Mr. Skillet.....	52
XII. Moving.....	57
XIII. Tige.....	62
XIV. A Letter.....	66
XV. At Work.....	71
XVI. Nina.....	76
XVII. The Meeting of the Worthies.....	81
XVIII. Darcy's First Visit.....	86
XIX. The Foremost Man of the Age.....	91
XX. The Gold Room.....	96
XXI. Title Deeds.....	100
XXII. The Wanderer's Return.....	105
XXIII. Watched.....	110
XXIV. A New Departure.....	115
XXV. Mr. Donis.....	120
XXVI. Baffled.....	125
XXVII. Nell Gaston.....	130
XVIII. Cross Purposes.....	135
XXIX. An Angry Household.....	139

	PAGE.
CHAPTER XXX. Found.....	144
XXXI. Mediums.....	145
XXXII. The Sealed Envelope.....	154
XXXIII. Mr. Skillet's Sympathy.....	159
XXXIV. Miss Abby's Visit.....	164
XXXV. Nina's Dilemma.....	169
XXXVI. The Outlet.....	174
XXXVII. Followed Again.....	179
XXXVIII. A Declaration.....	184
XXXIX. The Little Game.....	188
XL. The Old Church.....	192
XLI. Mr. Skillet's Plan.....	197
XLII. The Red Spots in the Snow.....	202
XLIII. The Friends' Parting.....	206
XLIV. A New Relation.....	211
XLV. Helen's Story.....	216
XLVI. The Dark Chamber.....	222
XLVII. The Partition.....	229
XLVIII. Blake and Bloke.....	234
XLIX. And Last.....	241

# FLESH AND SPIRIT.

---

## CHAPTER I.

### THE STORM.

DARCY GASTON stood at the window, watching the whirling snow. The great flakes slanting from east to west, were interlaced with millions of erratic crystals, darting in all directions, and formed a white network that hid the dark pines skirting the garden. The windows on the eastern side of the room were blocked up by miniature drifts, and all the paths around the house were obliterated.

A horseman, powdered from head to foot, passed the window, and dismounted at the porch. Before he had done stamping, and shaking the snow from his hat and garments, Darcy opened the door to admit him. The horse had walked off soberly, in search of shelter and provender.

The new comer divested himself of overcoat and leggings, entered the warm room, and stood with his back to the roaring wood fire. A large, comely man, thirty-five, with kind eyes and smiling mouth. His name was Henry Gaston, but at college he had been nicknamed "Tiger," because he was so invariably sweet tempered and gentle. No man had ever known him to manifest temper, and no man ever dreamed of offering him an affront. The county would have risen, as one man, to resent an injury done to "Tige" Gaston. He was a lawyer, without practice, except in the way of gratuitous advice, which he gave freely to all applicants; a farmer, with five hundred acres, which he valued chiefly on account of the quail he shot in the broad fields in the autumn; a country gentleman, with a wife who believed in him without limit, and no kindred excepting the boy who watched him so anxiously, as he stood near the blazing hearth.

"Well, brother?" said Darcy, at last.

"All up, Darcy!" replied Tige, "and I'm glad of it! Suppose