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THE WORKS OF
G. J. WHYTE-MELVILLE

EDITED BY

SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, BART.

VOLUME I.

RIDING RECOLLECTIONS





1878

"Half a dozen
shrill blasts"

RIDING
RECOLLECTIONS

BY

G. J. WHYTE-MELVILLE

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY HUGH THOMSON

LONDON

W. THACKER & CO., 2 CREED LANE, E.C.

CALCUTTA: THACKER, SPINK & CO.

1898

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ON BEHALF OF

“THE BRIDLED AND SADDLED”

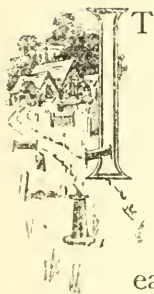
TO THE

“BOOTED AND SPURRED”

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INTRODUCTION



IT is a great misfortune to English literature that the pencil of John Leech never lent its aid to the pen of Whyte-Melville, an alliance of author and artist as natural as the memorable one between Boz and Phiz. They were contemporary : each excelled in the delineation of the chase : each delighted in portraying the most charming phases of young womanhood and the graces and foibles of young men. It is doubtful whether John Jorrocks and the rest of Surtees' inimitable gallery would ever have become the very household gods of the hunting-box had Leech not been enlisted to enliven the chronicle by his art. But Whyte-Melville was a careless author ; he cared little, that is, for the form in which his books were published. Writing for his own amusement and that of his friends, he devoted all the proceeds of his labour to philanthropic and charitable ends, especially to the establishment and maintenance of reading-rooms and other means of recreation for grooms

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