

**WHITE HEATHER,
A NOVEL; VOL. I**

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White heather, a novel; Vol. I by William Black

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WILLIAM BLACK

**WHITE HEATHER,
A NOVEL; VOL. I**

WHITE HEATHER

A Novel

BY

WILLIAM BLACK

AUTHOR OF 'MACLEOD OF DABE,' 'JUDITH SHAKESPEARE,' ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOL. I.

London
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1885

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WHITE HEATHER.

CHAPTER I.

A JOURNEY NORTHWARD.

ON a certain cold evening in January, and just as the Scotch night-mail was about to start for the north, a stranger drove up to Easton and alighted, and was glad enough to escape from the chill draughts of the echoing station into the glow and warmth and comfort of a sleeping-car. He was a man of means apparently; for one half of this carriage, containing four berths, and forming a room apart, as it were, had been reserved for himself alone; while his travelling impedimenta—fur-lined coats and hoods and rugs and what not—were of an elaborate and sumptuous description. On the other hand, there was nothing of ostentation about either his dress or appearance or demeanour. He was a tall, thin, quiet-looking man, with an aquiline nose, sallow complexion, and keen but not unkindly gray eyes. His short-cropped hair was grizzled, and there were deep lines in the worn and ascetic face; but this may have been the result of an exhausting climate rather than of any mental care, for there was certainly no touch of melancholy in his expression. His costume was somewhat prim and precise; there was a kind of schoolmasterish look about the stiff