

**MINGO, AND
OTHER SKETCHES IN
BLACK AND WHITE**

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Mingo, and other sketches in black and white by Joel Chandler Harris

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JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS

**MINGO, AND
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BLACK AND WHITE**



THE CHARM OF SIS POTET

The Booklovers Edition

MINGO
AND OTHER SKETCHES IN
BLACK AND WHITE

By
JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS



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MINGO :

A SKETCH OF LIFE IN MIDDLE GEORGIA.

L

IN 1876, circumstances, partly accidental and partly sentimental, led me to revisit Crooked Creek Church, near the little village of Rockville, in Middle Georgia. I was amazed at the changes which a few brief years had wrought. The ancient oaks ranged roundabout remained the same, but upon everything else time had laid its hand right heavily. Even the building seemed to have shrunk; the pulpit was less massive and imposing, the darkness beyond the rafters less mysterious. The preacher had grown gray, and feebleness had taken the place of that physical vigor which

was formerly the distinguishing feature of his interpretations of the larger problems of theology. People I had never seen sat in the places of those I had known so well. There were only traces here and there of the old congregation, whose austere simplicity had made so deep an impression upon my youthful mind. The blooming girls of 1860 had grown into careworn matrons, and the young men had developed in their features the strenuous uncertainty and misery of the period of desolation and disaster through which they had passed. Anxiety had so ground itself into their lives that a stranger to the manner might well have been pardoned for giving a sinister interpretation to these pitiable manifestations of hopelessness and unsuccess.

I had known the venerable preacher intimately in the past; but his eyes, wandering vaguely over the congregation, and resting curiously upon me, betrayed no recognition. Age, which had whitened his hair and enfeebled his voice, seemed also to have given