

CHITA: A MEMORY OF LAST ISLAND

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Chita: A Memory of Last Island by Lafcadio Hearn

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LAFCADIO HEARN

**CHITA: A MEMORY
OF LAST ISLAND**

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A MEMORY OF LAST ISLAND

BY

LAFCADIO HEARN

*"But Nature whistled with all her winds,
Did as she pleased, and went her way."*
—EMERSON

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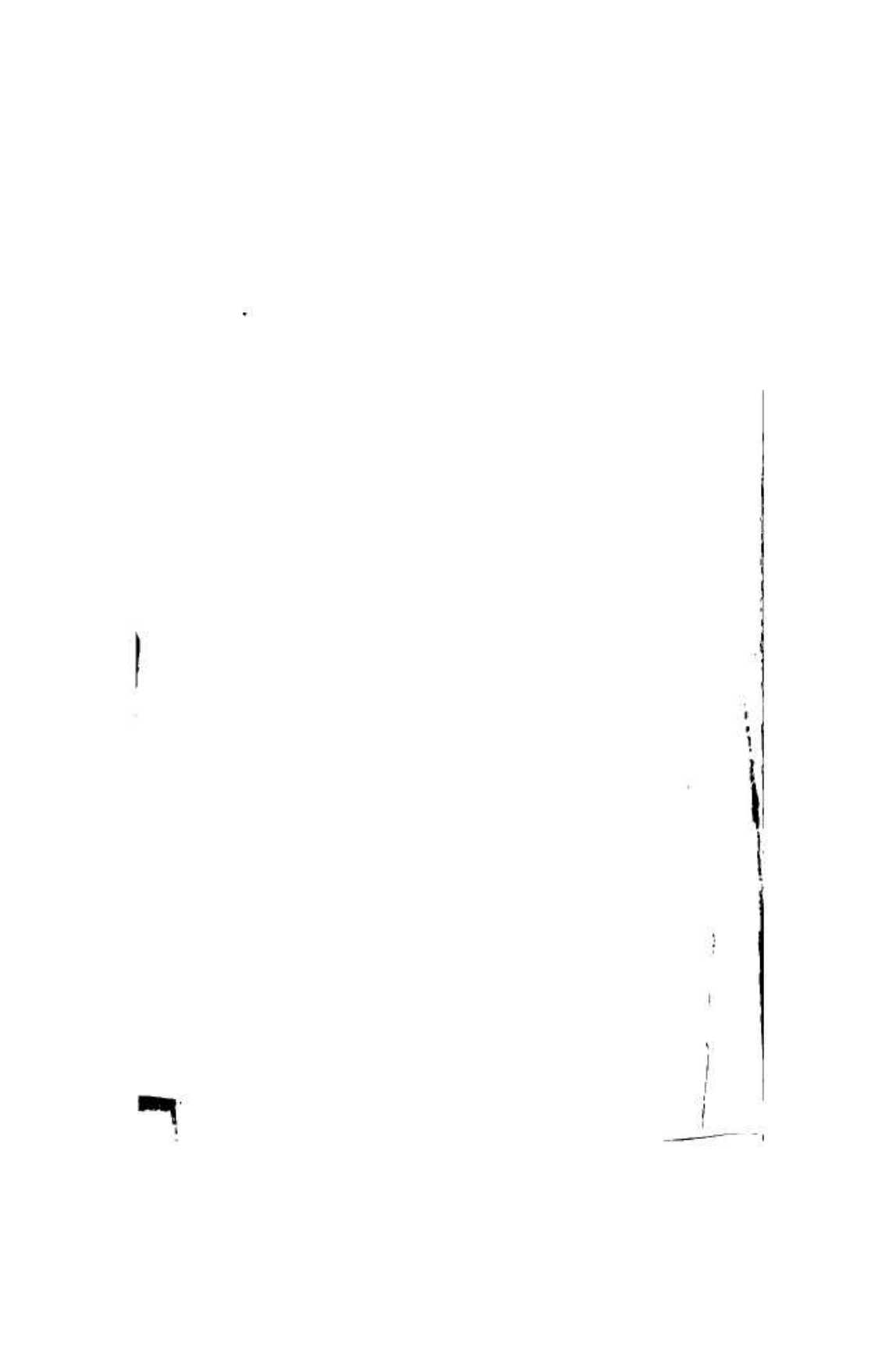
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*Je suis la vaste mêlée,—
Reptile, étant l'onde ; ailée,
Étant le vent,—
Force et fuite, haine et vie,
Houle immense, poursuivie
Et poursuivant.*

—VICTOR HUGO.

PART I.

The Legend of L'Île Dernière.



THE LEGEND OF L'ÎLE DERNIÈRE.

I.

TRAVELLING south from New Orleans to the Islands, you pass through a strange land into a strange sea, by various winding waterways. You can journey to the Gulf by lugger if you please ; but the trip may be made much more rapidly and agreeably on some one of those light, narrow steamers, built especially for bayou-travel, which usually receive passengers at a point not far from the foot of old Saint-Louis Street, hard by the sugar-landing, where there is ever a pushing and flocking of steam-craft—all striving for place to rest their white breasts against the levée, side by side,—like great weary