THE STAR-GAZERS

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The Star-Gazers by A. Carter Goodloe

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A. CARTER GOODLOE

THE STAR-GAZERS





"I put on a white pongee dress and a duck of a Nattier blue straw hat."

THE THE STAR-GAZERS

A. CARTER GOODLOE

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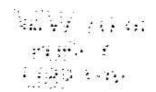


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BLANCHE AND WILLIAM PRIMM WOOD

IN MEMORY OF MANY HAPPY DAYS TOGETHER IN MEXICO

To.



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THE STAR-GAZERS

CONCERNING ELEANOR ERNE

SHE came of a stock noted for two things—the roving tendencies of its men and the beauty of its women. The former had been a salient characteristic of the family ever since her great-grandfather, Sir Hugh Erne, had left England to come to the Virginia colony. With inevitable restlessness, after a few years, he had taken the Wilderness Road and pushed westward into Kentucky, halting, finally, on the banks of the beautiful river above Frankfort and building there a family mansion in the Georgian style. And although the younger generations scattered, after the family habit, there

were always enough Ernes left to carry on the traditions and dignity of "The Hall."

When the war with Mexico broke out two of Eleanor's great-uncles hurried, with characteristic real for adventure, to the front. One fell fighting beside young Harry Clay, at the battle of Buena Vista; the other, surviving the war and liking the country he had invaded under arms, decided to remain in peace, only returning to Kentucky long enough to get a bride. It was in this way that Eleanor, whose grandfather, mirabile dictu, had stayed quietly in Kentucky, came to have Mexican cousins.

The family restlessness broke out again in Eleanor's father, and on the death of his wife he took his young daughter to Europe with him and spent his days in leisure travel. Having rather unorthodox ideas for a Southerner on the subject of girls'