

**AN EDELWEISS OF THE
SIERRAS; GOLDEN-ROD,
AND OTHER TALES**

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An edelweiss of the Sierras; Golden-rod, and other tales by Mrs. Burton Harrison

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MRS. BURTON HARRISON

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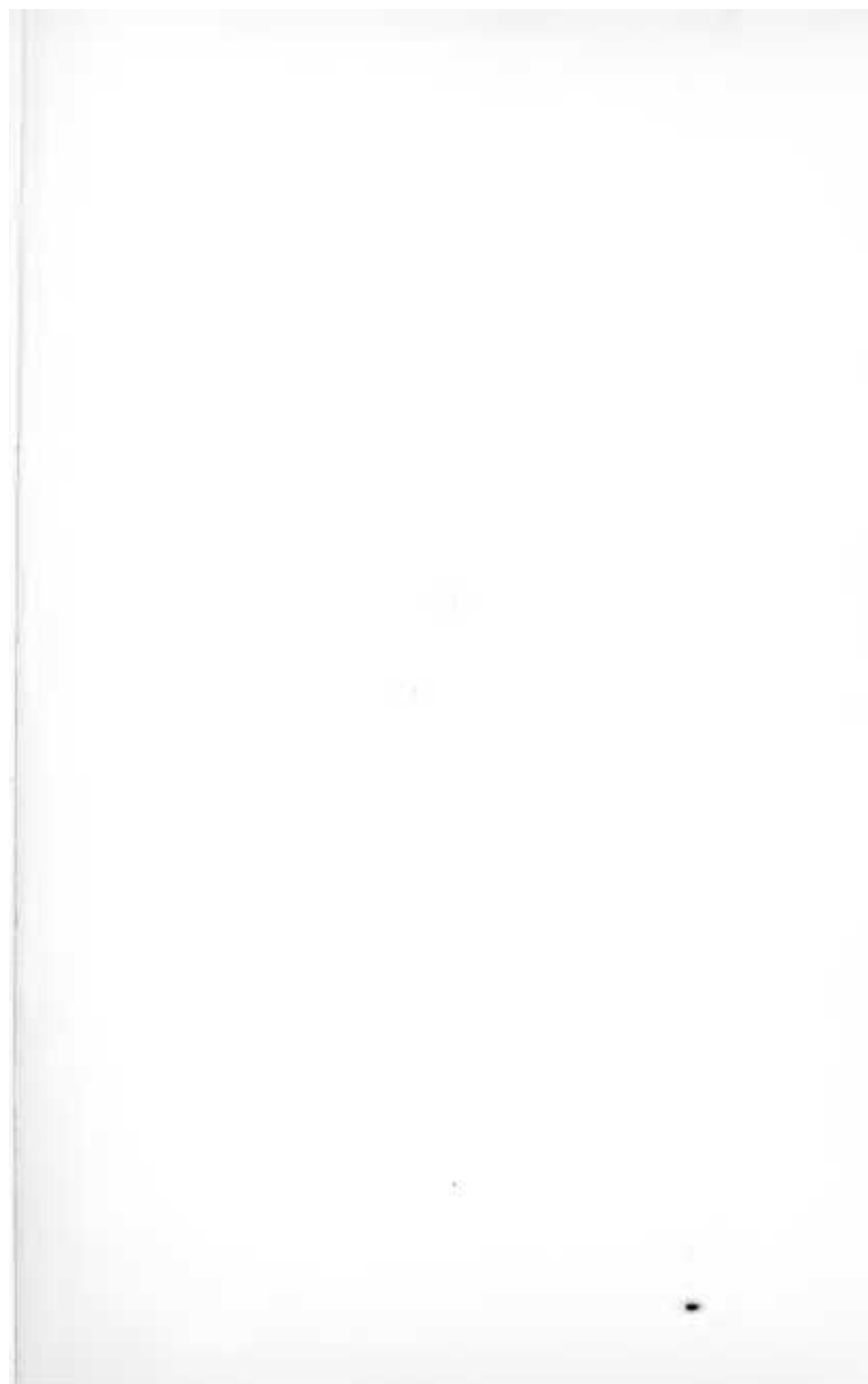
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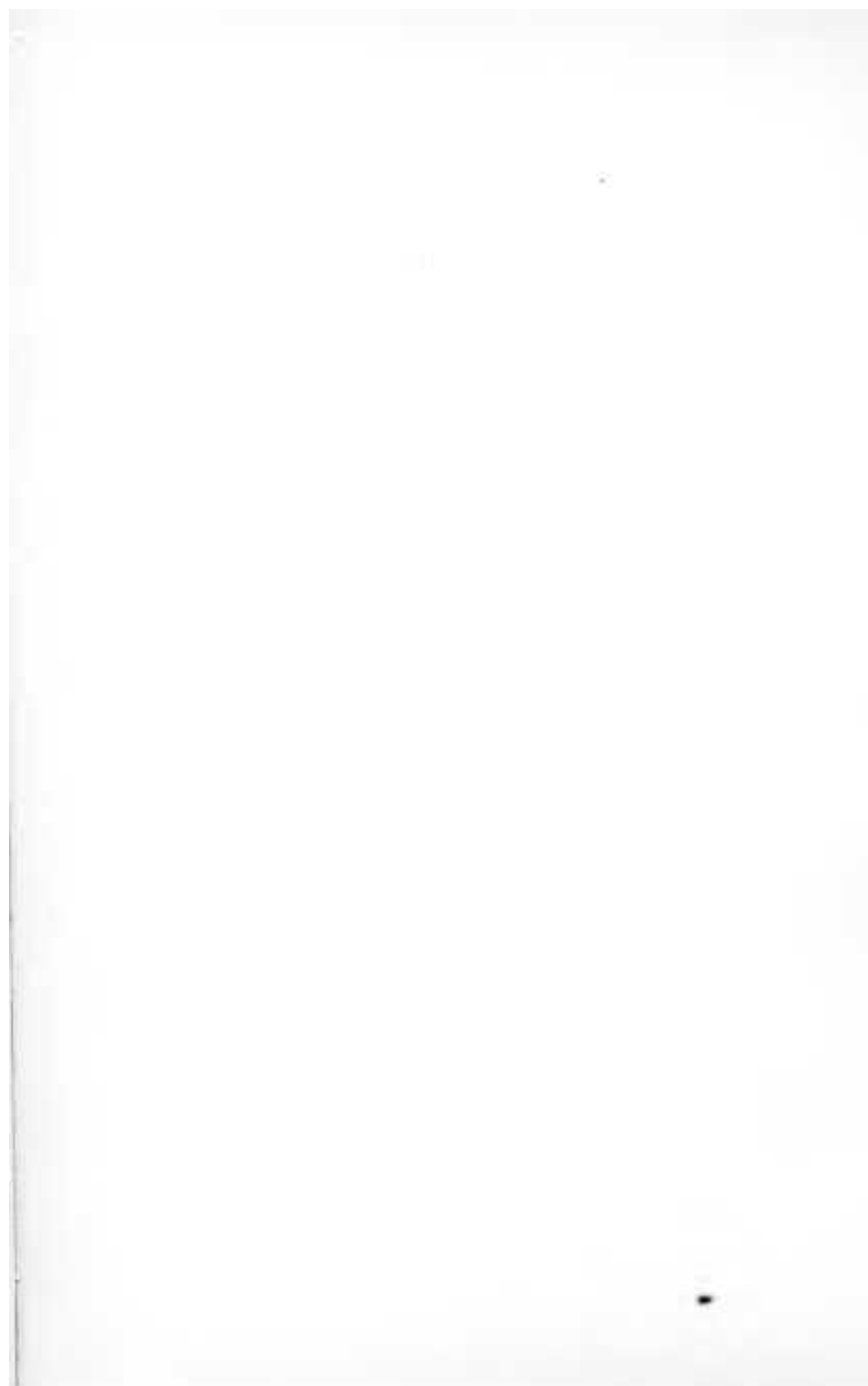
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AN EDELWEISS OF THE SIERRAS



AN EDELWEISS OF THE SIERRAS

I

LUCY BOYNTON lived a solitary life in a gray old minster town in England. She was an orphan, in charge of a venerable maiden aunt who, like the celebrated "Mrs. F." of Hood's ballad, was

"so very deaf
She might have worn a percussion-cap,
And be hit on the head without hearing it snap."

From spring to autumn, from autumn to spring, Lucy sat and sewed, dusted the tea-cups on the mantel-shelf, read a few dull books, and accompanied her aunt to service whence the morning and evening chants floated in at the window of their sitting-room close to the cathedral walls. Not so much as the Vicar of Wakefield's excitement "to migrate from the blue bed to the brown" was allotted her; for ever since she could remember, Lucy had occupied the same still, white-curtained nest, opening from Miss Boynton's bedroom,