The later twentieth century saw a huge wave of academic interest in women's writing, which led to the rediscovery of neglected works from a wide range of genres, periods and languages. Many books that were immensely popular and influential in their own day are now studied again, both for their own sake and for what they reveal about the social, political and cultural conditions of their time. A pioneering resource in this area is Orlando: Women's Writing in the British Isles from the Beginnings to the Present (http://orlando.cambridge.org), which provides entries on authors' lives and writing careers, contextual material, timelines, sets of internal links, and bibliographies. Its editors have made a major contribution to the selection of the works reissued in this series within the Cambridge Library Collection, which focuses on non-fiction publications by women on a wide range of subjects from astronomy to biography, music to political economy, and education to prison reform.

**The Land Beyond the Forest**

Novelist Emily Gerard (1849–1905) went with her husband, an officer in the Austrian army, to Transylvania for two years in 1883. Then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, today a region of western Romania, Transylvania was little known to readers back in England. In the years following, she wrote this full-length account (published in 1888) as well as several articles on the region, which Bram Stoker used when researching the setting for *Dracula*. She describes her encounters with the different nationalities that made up the Transylvanian people: Romanians, Saxons and gypsies. Full of startling anecdotes and written in a novelistic style, her work combines her personal recollections with a detailed account of the landscape and people. The first volume recounts her first impressions and the superstitions and customs of the Romanian and Saxon populations. For more information on this author, see http://orlando.cambridge.org/public/svPeople?person_id=geraem
Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

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The Land Beyond the Forest

Facts, Figures, and Fancies from Transylvania

Volume 1

Emily Gerard
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OLD TOWN GATE AT HERMANSTADT.

ELISABETH THOR.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MADAME KAMILLA ASSOTH, HERMANSTADT.
THE

LAND BEYOND THE FOREST

FACTS, FIGURES, AND FANCIES
FROM TRANSYLVANIA

BY

E. GERARD

AUTHOR OF 'BEATA,' 'THE WATERS OF HERCULES,' ETC.

With Map and Illustrations

IN TWO VOLUMES—VOL. I.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
EDINBURGH AND LONDON
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PREFACE.

In the spring of 1883 my husband was appointed to the command of the cavalry brigade in Transylvania, composed of two hussar regiments, stationed respectively at Hermanstadt and Kronstadt,—a very welcome nomination, as gratifying a long-cherished wish of mine to visit that part of the Austrian empire known as the Land beyond the Forest.

The two years spent in Transylvania were among the most agreeable of sixteen years' acquaintance with Austrian military life; and I shall always look back to this time as to something quaint and exceptional, totally different from all previous and subsequent experiences.

Much interested in the wild beauty of the country, the strange admixture of races by which it is peopled, and their curious and varied folk-lore, I recorded some of my impressions in short inde-
PREFACE.

Independent papers, of which three appeared in ‘Blackwood’s Magazine,’ one in the ‘Nineteenth Century,’ and one in the ‘Contemporary Review.’ It was only after I had left the country, that, being desirous of preserving these sketches in more convenient form, I began rearranging the matter for publication. But the task of retracing my Transylvanian experiences was so pleasant that it led me on far beyond my original intention; one reminiscence awoke another, one chapter gave rise to a second; and so, instead of one small volume, as had been at first contemplated, my manuscript almost unconsciously developed to its present dimensions.

When the work was completed, the idea of illustrating it occurred to me: but this was a far more difficult matter; for, though offering a perfect treasure-mine to artists, Transylvania has not as yet received from them the attention it deserves; and had it not been for obliging assistance from several quarters, I should have been debarred the satisfaction of elucidating some of my descriptions by appropriate sketches.

In this matter my thanks are greatly due to Herr Emil Sigerus, who was good enough to place at my disposal the blocks of engravings designed by himself, and belonging to the Transylvanian
PREFACE.

Carpathian Society, of which he is the secretary. Likewise to Madame Kamilla Asboth, for permission to copy her lifelike and characteristic photographs of Saxons, Roumanians, and gipsies.

I would also at this place acknowledge the extreme courtesy with which every question of mine regarding Transylvanian people and customs has been responded to by various kind acquaintances, and if some parts of my work do not meet with their entire approval, let them here take the assurance that my remarks were prompted by no unfriendly spirit, and that in each and every case I have endeavoured to judge impartially according to my lights.

E. de L. G.

VIENNA, February 1888.
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