

THE WHITE ROSE OF DARVEL:

A Memory of the "Forty-five."

CHAPTER I.

JULY the twenty-third, in the Year of Grace, 1745, will ever be a red-letter day in the calendar of the "leal," for on that day Bonnie Prince Charlie, the darling hero of Scottish romance, the last hope of the Stuarts, first set foot on the land that was his father's and his, by right of birth and lineage.

Men accounted him mad, when they heard of his setting out, accompanied by but a mere handful of followers, to displace an established dynasty, and to recover for his father the crown of three kingdoms. Subsequent events proved that there was "method in his madness." Of the two vessels that set sail from the coast of France, only one, the *Doutelle*, with the Prince on board, reached its destination in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. The landing was made at Eriska, in South Uist, the country of the Macdonalds. The laird of Clanranald, the chief of the sept, was from home, but Macdonald of Boisdale, brother of the chief, came to pay his respects to the Prince. Instead, however, of giving any encouragement to the idea of a "rising," he did all he could to throw cold water upon it, assuring Charles that the whole affair was premature, and could only end in disaster. He little knew the resolute character of the man with whom he was dealing, for all his argument failed. The little party of adventurers once more boarded their vessel, sailed to Lochuanuagh, and landed at Boisdale. There