

GERALD FITZGERALD.

CHAPTER I.

MR. GREY had just returned from work, and was about to take his tea and make himself comfortable for the evening, when a hasty knock at the door alarmed him. Very few people besides the postman came to his door with double knocks; and the postman did not come often. When he did, his rat-tat was at once known and recognised.

"Who can it be?" said Mrs. Grey, rising.

"Ah! who can it be?" repeated the husband. And then, as a probable means of ascertaining, he said, "I think you had better go and see, Mary!"