

THE MAN FROM NOWHERE

BOOK I

CHAPTER I

A BOAT AMONG THE BREAKERS

THOUGH it does not seem necessary to mention here that village beside the sea wherewith this narrative is mainly concerned, it may be frankly confessed that it is an actual place and at no very considerable distance from the great metropolis of New York.

Very real, too, were the four boys who, despite various differences in their upbringing and surroundings, had during the summer of that particular year become fast friends. Ben Masterson, the oldest, was tall and heavily built, his tall and muscular frame well inured to hardship, his tanned, almost leathern, complexion proclaimed that he was a resident of the place and followed the sea as his principal calling. Like many another of his type, he was slow and taciturn of