

THE LATE MR. WATKINS OF GEORGIA

HIS RELATION TO ORIENTAL FOLK-LORE

OWING to the fact that I have compiled and published from time to time such stories of the Southern plantations as chanced to fall in my way, an opinion has gone abroad that if I am not a genuine professor of the science of folk-lore I at least know all about the comparative branch of the subject. There is no mystery as to how this impression got abroad. I beat my forehead in the dust at the reader's feet and make a full confession. It is all owing to the wonderfully learned introduction to the volume of plantation stories called "Nights with Uncle Remus." There is nothing egotistical in my characterization of that introduction. I speak as a spectator, — an outsider, as it were. I am not a bit proud of it, but I marvel at it. Where did I get hold of all the information that seems to be packed in those unobtrusive pages, and how did I have the patience to string it out