

**CONDENSED
NOVELS, THE TWO
SERIES COMPLETE**

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Condensed novels, the two series complete by Bret Harte

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BRET HARTE

**CONDENSED
NOVELS, THE TWO
SERIES COMPLETE**

CONDENSED NOVELS

THE TWO SERIES COMPLETE

BY

BRET HARTE



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CONDENSED NOVELS

3

MUCK-A-MUCK

A MODERN INDIAN NOVEL

AFTER F-N-M-RE COOPER

CHAPTER I

It was toward the close of a bright October day. The last rays of the setting sun were reflected from one of those sylvan lakes peculiar to the Sierras of California. On the right the curling smoke of an Indian village rose between the columns of the lofty pines, while to the left the log cottage of Judge Tompkins, embowered in buckeyes, completed the enchanting picture.

Although the exterior of the cottage was humble and unpretentious, and in keeping with the wildness of the landscape, its interior gave evidence of the cultivation and refinement of its inmates. An aquarium, containing gold-fishes, stood on a marble centre-table at one end of the apartment, while a magnificent grand piano occupied the other. The floor was covered with a yielding tapestry carpet, and the walls were adorned with paintings from the pencils of Van Dyke, Rubens, Tintoretto, Michael Angelo, and the productions of the more modern Turner, Kensett, Church, and Bierstadt. Although Judge Tompkins had chosen the frontiers of civilisation as his home, it was impossible for him to entirely forego the habits and tastes