

**SYMPHONIES**

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Symphonies by George Egerton

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**GEORGE EGERTON**

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SYMPHONIES

BY

(GEORGE EGERTON, *ps. et c.*)



JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD

LONDON AND NEW YORK

1897

*To*

MY DEAR FRIEND

J. A. M.

*Woman with the best of man in her,  
and none of the smallness of woman*



*Our best stories are ever untold — I like to think of them stored away in some monster aerial library of the unwritten works of human fancy: dream stories that unfold in the darkness like silver flowers with jewelled stamens — only to tarnish with our first awakening consciousness of their value — as copy.*

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
A CHILIAN EPISODE . . . . .	1
THE CAPTAIN'S BOOK . . . . .	42
SEA PINKS . . . . .	64
A NOCTURNE . . . . .	99
OONY . . . . .	109
AT THE HEART OF THE APPLE . . . . .	160
FAN . . . . .	219

## A CHILIAN EPISODE

THE New Year numbered just two dawns, the fiery sun glowed and danced on the waves, and struck sparks off the brass fittings of the steamers that rocked on the inland swell, and tugged strenuously at their anchor chains in the Bay of Valparaiso. A big Pacific liner faced a Dutch man-o'-war on a flying visit, and the "Blanca Encalada," of many battles, nodded to her comrade of Irish name, the "O'Higgins." The houses gleamed whitely as they ran up the steep hill behind the town, and the earth burned ochre red wherever there was a space.

Down in the town, the favourite morning mass was drawing to a close in the church of *Los Padres Franceses*. In a country where every woman is honestly devout, and few of the younger men believers, the congregation was, of a necessity, almost exclusively made up of women. There were a few exceptions: