

**THE BRITISH
BARBARIANS: A
HILL-TOP NOVEL**

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The British barbarians: a hill-top novel by Grant Allen

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GRANT ALLEN

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BARBARIANS: A
HILL-TOP NOVEL**

By the same Author

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3rd Edition

THE
BRITISH BARBARIANS
A HILL-TOP NOVEL
BY GRANT ALLEN

LONDON: JOHN LANE, VIGO STREET

NEW YORK: G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, 1895





Edinburgh: T and A. CONSTABLE, Printers to Her Majesty

INTRODUCTION

Which every reader of this book is requested to read
before beginning the story.

THIS is a Hill-top Novel. I dedicate it to all who have heart enough, brain enough, and soul enough to understand it.

What do I mean by a Hill-top Novel? Well, of late we have been flooded with stories of evil tendencies: a Hill-top Novel is one which raises a protest in favour of purity.

Why have not novelists raised the protest earlier? For this reason. Hitherto, owing to the stern necessity laid upon the modern seer for earning his bread, and, incidentally, for finding a publisher to assist him in promulgating his prophetic opinions, it has seldom happened that writers of exceptional

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aims have been able to proclaim to the world at large the things which they conceived to be best worth their telling it. Especially has this been the case in the province of fiction. Let me explain the situation. Most novels nowadays have to run as serials through magazines or newspapers; and the editors of these periodicals are timid to a degree which outsiders would hardly believe with regard to the fiction they admit into their pages. Endless spells surround them. This story or episode would annoy their Catholic readers; that one would repel their Wesleyan Methodist subscribers: such an incident is unfit for the perusal of the young person; such another would drive away the offended British matron. I do not myself believe there is any real ground for this excessive and, to be quite frank, somewhat ridiculous timidity. Incredible as it may seem to the ordinary editor, I am of opinion that it would be possible to tell the truth, and yet preserve the circulation. A first-class journal does not really suffer because two or three