

**NOUGHTS AND
CROSSES, STORIES,
STUDIES AND SKETCHES**

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Noughts and Crosses, Stories, Studies and Sketches by Arthur Thomas Quiller-Couch

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ARTHUR THOMAS QUILLER-COUCH

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CROSSES, STORIES,
STUDIES AND SKETCHES**

Quiller Couch, & Arthur Thomas.

Noughts and Crosses

Stories, Studies and Sketches

BY

Q

*"Ipsae te, Tityre, puer,
Ipsi te fontes, ipsa haec arbusta vocabant."*

CASELL & COMPANY, LIMITED:
LONDON, PARIS & MELBOURNE.

1891,

[ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.]

828
Q.557m
1891

Two of the following stories were first published in *Longman's Magazine*; the rest are selected from a number contributed to *The Speaker*. For permission to reprint them I must sincerely thank the two Editors.

Q.

13-303577

TO MY WIFE.



CONTENTS.

	PAGE
THE OMNIBUS	1
PORTUNIO	7
THE OUTLANDISH LADIES	17
STATEMENT OF GABRIEL FOOT, HIGHWAYMAN	27
THE RETURN OF JOANNA	53
PSYCHE	63
THE COUNTESS OF BELLARMINÉ	73
A COTTAGE IN TROY—	
I. A HAPPY VOYAGE	85
II. THESE-AN'-THAT'S WIFE	96
III. "DOUBLES" AND QUITS	105
IV. THE BOY BY THE BEACH	113
OLD ESON	123
STORIES OF BLEAKIRK—	
I. THE AFFAIR OF BLEAKIRK-ON-SANDS	135
II. THE CONSTANT POST-BOY	159

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
A DARK MIRROR	169
THE SMALL PEOPLE	175
THE MAYOR OF GANTICK	185
THE DOCTOR'S FOUNDLING	195
THE GIFTS OF FEODOR HIMKOFF	205
YORKSHIRE DICK	215
THE CAROL	225
THE PARADISE OF CHOICE	235
BESIDE THE BEE-HIVES	247
THE MAGIC SHADOW	255

NOUGHTS AND CROSSES.

THE OMNIBUS.

It was not so much a day as a burning, fiery furnace. The roar of London's traffic reverberated under a sky of coppery blue; the pavements threw out waves of heat, thickened with the reek of restaurants and perfumery shops; and dust became cinders, and the wearing of flesh a weariness. Streams of sweat ran from the bellies of 'bus-horses when they halted. Men went up and down with unbuttoned waistcoats, turned into drinking-bars, and were no sooner inside than they longed to be out again, and baking in an ampler oven. Other men, who had given up drinking because of the expense, hung about the fountains in Trafalgar Square and listened to the splash of running water. It was the time when London is supposed to be