

A MODERN KNIGHT

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649175321

A modern knight by Joseph Hopkins Twichell

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Cover @ 2017

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JOSEPH HOPKINS TWICHELL

**A MODERN
KNIGHT**

A Modern Knight

by

REV. JOSEPH HOPKINS TWICHELL, M. A.

(Senior Fellow of Yale University)

New Haven

YALE FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

1906

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THE FLIMPTON PRESS,
HARTFORD, CONN.

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Col. Thos. Spaulding
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A Modern Knight.

On the 20th day of September, 1871, at about an hour before noon, a small vessel came to anchor outside the encircling reef of an island in the South Pacific seas. The blue ocean waves breaking on the reef, the wide placid lagoon within, the white line of the beach beyond, the palm grove reaching down to the shore, and all bathed in the glory of the tropic sunshine, made the scene one of enchantment.

Several canoe loads of natives were soon hovering near the vessel, yet seeming afraid to venture further. Presently a boat put out from the vessel to meet them. The prominent figure in this boat was a man a little over forty years of age, of medium stature, of well-knit frame, full-bearded, dressed in flannel shirt and trousers, of a calm, self-reliant, fearless air, yet very gentle in his speech and manner toward those with him, and, it was plain to see, familiar with situations of that kind. Upon reaching the canoes, after a few minutes' conversation with their occupants, by signs chiefly, he

a class of moderns who are evidence and proof that our ever-living Gospel is, in our age, of as potent virtue to produce the supreme type of heroic manhood as ever it was. No martyr of the early church, or of any Christian period, was a nobler sacrifice, or worthier the halo, than this man who perished on that Melanesian island in the year of our Lord, 1871.

John Coleridge Patteson, the nephew of the famous Coleridge, and the son of Sir John Patteson, an eminent jurist, had his place by birth in the upper circles of English society. No sooner are we introduced into the household where his life opened than we find ourselves in a most positive, pure, delightful Christian atmosphere. It is a praying household, notably pervaded with the spirit of an humble piety, and with all sweet gospel savors. There is no mistaking the evangelical tone and quality of the religion there prevailing. The child for whom such things were in store was consecrated to God at his birth, and from infancy was trained in the way of faith and godliness. He grew up a spirited, merry, high-hearted boy, much given to athletics, a great favorite with his comrades, by no means without faults, but a good boy; till at the age of fifteen while at Eton he was confirmed a communicant in the Church:—a matter

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