

**THE CRUISE OF THE  
"WILD DUCK"  
AND OTHER TALES**

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The cruise of the "Wild Duck" and other tales by Holger Drachmann

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**HOLGER DRACHMANN**

**THE CRUISE OF THE  
"WILD DUCK"  
AND OTHER TALES**



DANISH STORIES

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THE CRUISE  
OF  
THE "WILD DUCK"  
AND  
*OTHER TALES*



LONDON  
T. FISHER UNWIN  
PATERNOSTER SQUARE

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## PREFACE.

**A**T a time when countries the most remote are laid under contribution to supply fresh literary sensations to English readers, it is strange that the contemporary literature of Denmark, a land so closely allied to us by blood and by language, should hitherto have received such scant notice. The limits of an introductory note do not permit me to examine the causes of this neglect; but I hope that these short stories, selected from the writings of Holger Drachmann, may go to prove that it is not to be ascribed to any general dearth of talent among Danish writers.

Holger Drachmann's literary

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activity has been unusually wide in its range; he has written poems, novels, plays, sketches of travel, short stories; the high place he holds among men of letters in his own country was gained, in the first place, by his poetry rather than by his prose. But whatever the form of his work, its spirit is intensely national; he loves the sea as perhaps only Englishmen and Scandinavians love her, and his best pages are touched by something of her vigour, her freshness, her melancholy.

In spite of the inevitable injustice suffered by an author in the course of translation, I venture to think that English readers will feel the charm of these brief stories of a Danish fishing village—of a life so full of toil and suffering and privation, of simplicity and heroic patience.

I may add that many of Holger Drachmann's writings have already been translated into German, and a French version of his short stories is shortly to appear.

H. C. M.



## CONTENTS.



	PAGE
1. THE CRUISE OF THE "WILD DUCK" . . . . .	9
2. SHE DIED AND WAS BURIED . . . . .	79
3. THE CHURCH SHIP . . . . .	101
4. A ROMANCE OF THE DOWNS . . . . .	125
5. ROUND CAPE HORN . . . . .	153
6. THE PILOT'S MUSICAL BOX . . . . .	173

*THE CRUISE OF THE "WILD  
DUCK?"*

