

A TROOPER OF THE EMPRESS

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A Trooper of the Empress by Clinton Ross

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CLINTON ROSS

**A TROOPER OF
THE EMPRESS**

A TROOPER OF THE EMPRESS

BY
CLINTON ROSS
AUTHOR OF
CHALMETTE, THE MEDDLING HUSSY, ETC.

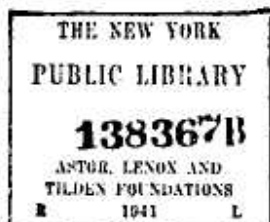
"And a trooper of the Empress, if you please——"
KIPLING



NEW YORK
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY

1898

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TO
CHARLES A. WATROUS, Esq.

At New York, February, 1898.

PROLOGUE.

OH, well, said Burns, who was near Nature, "a man's a man for a' that"—for all of all things. This is no particular story, although it may deal with South Africa; it's just in proof of the assertion of the inspired Scot.

Let men talk and quibble; give me the man who does things. Let him fail, but let him rise from failure.

But this story is not mine; it's John Barton's, who saw and knew it all, as he will tell you. It's a story of the new land and of the man who failed and succeeded, of a nation's policy and a strong man's mysticism; of Fraser of Glencoe, and of Maisie Halton; and of Tirwin, the financier, who put a trade's in-

terest above the interest in woman or the respect for other men's rights.

It begins with what happened at Rimini and at Gilmer's in —— I have forgotten the year. But here it begins, if you will listen. May you listen as rapt as the Arabians who heard the Nights at the end of a lazy day.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I.—A MAN OF BROKEN FORTUNE	1
II.—THE CAREER OF FRASER OF GLENCOE	22
III.—HOW THREE YEARS AFTER I CAME TO CLOUTSIE	40
IV.—THE PROBLEM OF NITARA	56
V.—THE TREASON OF MAISIE HALTON	75
VI.—OVER THE BORDER	93
VII.—WHAT THEY SAID AND DID IN VICTORIA	104
VIII.—THE MEETING OF DUTCH AND ENGLISH	125
IX.—THE BATTLE OF THE LITTLE WAR	132
X.—THE INDISCRETION OF AN IMPULSIVE MAN, AND THE NOSE OF FIFTY MILLION POUNDS STERLING	146
XI.—A SENTIMENTAL AFFAIR IN THE JAIL AT CLOUTSIE	163
XII.—OF THE DAYS WHEN WE WAITED IN LONDON	176
XIII.—HOW MRS. BLANFIELD DINED MR. TIRWIN	189
XIV.—THE MIND OF A FINANCIER	206
XV.—HOW I VISITED IN PERTHSHIRE	217