

# **THE LONDON VENTURE**

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The London venture by Michael Arlen Bruant

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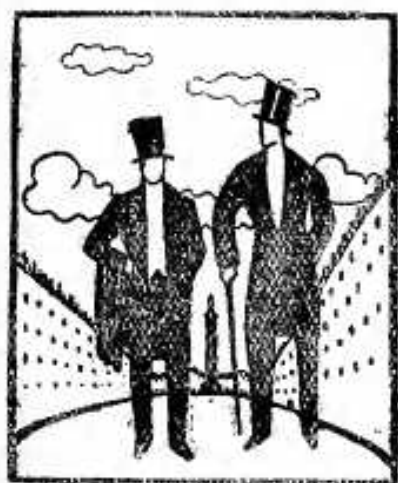
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**MICHAEL ARLEN BRUANT**

**THE LONDON  
VENTURE**



THE LONDON VENTURE



"THE LONDON VENTURE."

# THE LONDON VENTURE

BY

MICHAEL ARLEN

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WITH DRAWINGS

BY

MICHEL SEVIER



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LONDON: WILLIAM HEINEMANN

PR6001  
R44L65



TO  
THE SISTER  
OF  
SHELMERDENE

## APOLOGIA PRO NOMINE MEO

**O**UT of consideration (in part) to such readers as may read this book I have assumed a name by which they may refer to me (if ever he or she may wish to do so kindly) in the same manner at least twice running—a feat of pronunciation which few of my English acquaintances have performed with my natal name. But there is also another reason, considerate of the author. I have been told that there are writers whose works would have been famous if only their names could have been familiarly pronounced—Polish and Russian writers for the most part, I gather. Since I had already taken every other precaution but this to deserve their more fortunate fate, in changing my name I have, I hope, robbed my readers of their last excuse for my obscurity.

DIKRAN KOUYOUMDJIAN.

“MICHAEL ARLEN.”

## THE LONDON VENTURE



I

**M**Y watch has needed winding only twice since I left London, and already, as I sit here in the strange library of a strange house, whose

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