

# **THE NEW EDEN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649656356

The New Eden by C. J. Cutcliffe Hyne

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Cover @ 2017

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**C. J. CUTCLIFFE HYNE**

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BY

C. J. CUTCLIFFE HYNE

AUTHOR OF

'FOUR RED NIGHTCAPS,' 'A MATRIMONIAL MIXTURE,'  
ETC., ETC.



LONDON  
LONGMANS, GREEN AND CO.  
AND NEW YORK: 15 EAST 16th STREET  
1892

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## PROLOGUE.

A TALL square-shouldered man of forty or forty-two, with a clever tired-looking face, was seated at a writing-table, looking over a portfolio of rough MS. notes. The cabin in which he sat was furnished with rich comfort, but no useless luxury. It was the abode of the savant rather than the sybarite.

The time was night, but electric lamps filled the place with a steady glow of light.

There came a knock at the door.

"Enter."

The door-handle turned, and the yacht's sailing-master stepped inside.

"Your highness," he said, "we are there. I have had the engines slowed down to half speed, so as just to give us steerage way."

"You have not run into sight of the island?"

"The loom of the mid-peak can just be seen from the foretop-gallant yard; but from land we should be invisible."

"That is well. Call away the boat at once, and I will be on deck in ten minutes. Stay a minute." The sailing-master had saluted, and was turning to leave the cabin. "You have explained to the officer in charge of the boat how to find that creek which we noted before? There is too much at stake here, for me to rely upon my own memory about such matters."

"With permission, your highness, I shall accompany you myself."

"Ah, perhaps that is the best plan.

.. . . .

And you have impressed upon the men the necessity for keeping our presence absolutely hidden?"

"They understand it thoroughly."

"Repeat your warning, captain, and promise them a heavy *douceur* to help their caution. If our visit is noticed, my experiment will be in great part spoiled, and my life will not be long enough to commence a second from the beginning."

"I will see that your highness has no reason to fear on that score."

"And about provisions, captain?"

"According to orders, I have victualled the boat for fourteen days."

"Add more; make it twenty. My present intention is to spend a week on each island; but delays may occur. We may be held there by storms, and I cannot have the yacht standing in through the reefs to take us off."

"Your highness need have no fear of