

**THE QUEEN'S JUSTICE,  
A TRUE STORY OF  
INDIAN VILLAGE LIFE**

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The Queen's justice, a true story of Indian village life by Sir Edwin Arnold

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**SIR EDWIN ARNOLD**

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INDIAN VILLAGE LIFE**



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# THE QUEEN'S JUSTICE:

*A True Story of Indian Village Life.*

BY

SIR EDWIN ARNOLD,

K.C.L.E., C.S.I.

*Author of "The Light of Asia," "The Light of the World,"  
etc., etc., etc.*

187621  
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THOMAS BURLEIGH.

1899.

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TO MY WIFE

**Tama Kurokawa**

— LADY ARNOLD —

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS

AFFECTIONATELY

DEDICATED.

## PREFACE.

*THIS is a true relation, in the familiar form of "short story," of a strange case of supposed murder which occurred sixteen years ago in Bengal. The facts, names and circumstances, are all given, with absolute exactness, out of official records, and from a pamphlet published in London during 1883 by MR. MANOMAHAN GHOSE, with an introduction by SIR W. A. HUNTER.*

*It seemed desirable that so typical and picturesque an illustration of the difficulties of Criminal Administration in India, of the dangers of the chose jugée, and of the scrupulous caution which judges need ever*

*to exercise, should have literary preservation ; for which reason, as well as for its forensic interest and ethnographic colour, the author has given this new setting to bygone incidents, which are in themselves herein recorded with complete fidelity and simplicity.*

EDWIN ARNOLD.

LONDON,  
17th Oct., 1898.



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## CHAPTER I.

### BEFORE THE TROUBLE.

EVENING was falling upon a little village in rural Bengal ; the evening of a hot day at the close of the month of March, 1882. Men, women, and children, birds, beasts, lizards, and snakes, and the very fishes in the jheels and streams, were glad of the growing coolness in the air. It would be a whole month yet, and, perhaps, more, before the May rains could fall, to soak the thirsty soil, and set the grasses growing ; and permit the áman crop of spring rice to