

**THREE FAIR DAUGHTERS:  
A NOVEL, IN THREE  
VOLUMES; VOL. I**

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Three Fair Daughters: A Novel; In Three Volumes; Vol. I by Laurence Brooke

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**LAURENCE BROOKE**

**THREE FAIR DAUGHTERS:  
A NOVEL; IN THREE  
VOLUMES; VOL. I**



# THREE FAIR DAUGHTERS:

*A NOVEL.*

BY

LAURENCE BROOKE,

AUTHOR OF THE 'QUEEN OF TWO WORLDS,' ETC.

*IN THREE VOLUMES.*



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## THREE FAIR DAUGHTERS.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### MR FARQUHAR'S PROPOSAL.

' He either fears his fate too much,  
Or his deserts are small,  
Who dares not put it to the touch,  
And win or lose it all.'

**T**HIS is what Lieutenant Robert Farquhar, of Her Majesty's —th Lancers, was repeating softly to himself, as he walked slowly along the sands at Seaford. As he was not a young man of deep reading, nor ordinarily given to quoting poetry, it stands to reason that there must have been a peculiar signi-

ficance in his doing so on the present occasion. The fact is, Mr Farquhar was that morning bent upon an important errand—an errand, indeed, of such deep import and consequence to his future, that his heart beat fast and his pulses thrilled in anticipation as he walked along the yellow, glittering sands, on which a hot June sun was beating fiercely. He was going to make a proposal of marriage to a very charming young lady.

Such a proceeding, always more or less of a formidable nature, should have been rendered easier in his case, through the circumstance that the young lady on whom he was about to confer the honour was no recent acquaintance, but a very old friend. He had known Lenore Chester from her babyhood—had been her playmate and youthful cavalier as a boy, had led her into all sorts of scrapes, and stood by her when brought to book for them, with a chivalry that proved him to be a lad of mettle. In their youth they had perpetrated every con-

ceivable kind of iniquity, disobeyed every written and every unwritten law ordained for their guidance by their elders, with an utter disregard of consequences only possible in children blessed with abnormally high spirits and reckless daring.

It did Mr Farquhar good, and kept his courage as it were up to the sticking point, to recall the memory of some of their childish escapades—for did not these experiences of the past constitute so many links between them, and point to matrimony as a fitting termination of such close friendship? His prospects were satisfactory; he was a favourite with the Chester family; he was a healthy-looking, fresh-coloured young Englishman—the only noticeable drawback to his personal appearance being his hair, which was deeply, darkly, beautifully red. There were several young ladies in the immediate neighbourhood of Seaford who would have jumped at the chance of calling themselves 'Mrs Robert Farquhar.'

And yet, and yet, as he struck up the