

**'THAT
VERY MAB'**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649719495

'That Very Mab' by Emma Goldsworth Kendall

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EMMA GOLDSWORTH KENDALL

**'THAT
VERY MAB'**

'THAT VERY MAB'

PRINTED BY
SPOTTISWOODE AND CO., NEW-STREET SQUARE
LONDON

'THAT VERY MAB'

'Ah! now I see Queen Mab has been with you'

γλαῦκ' Ἀθήνας

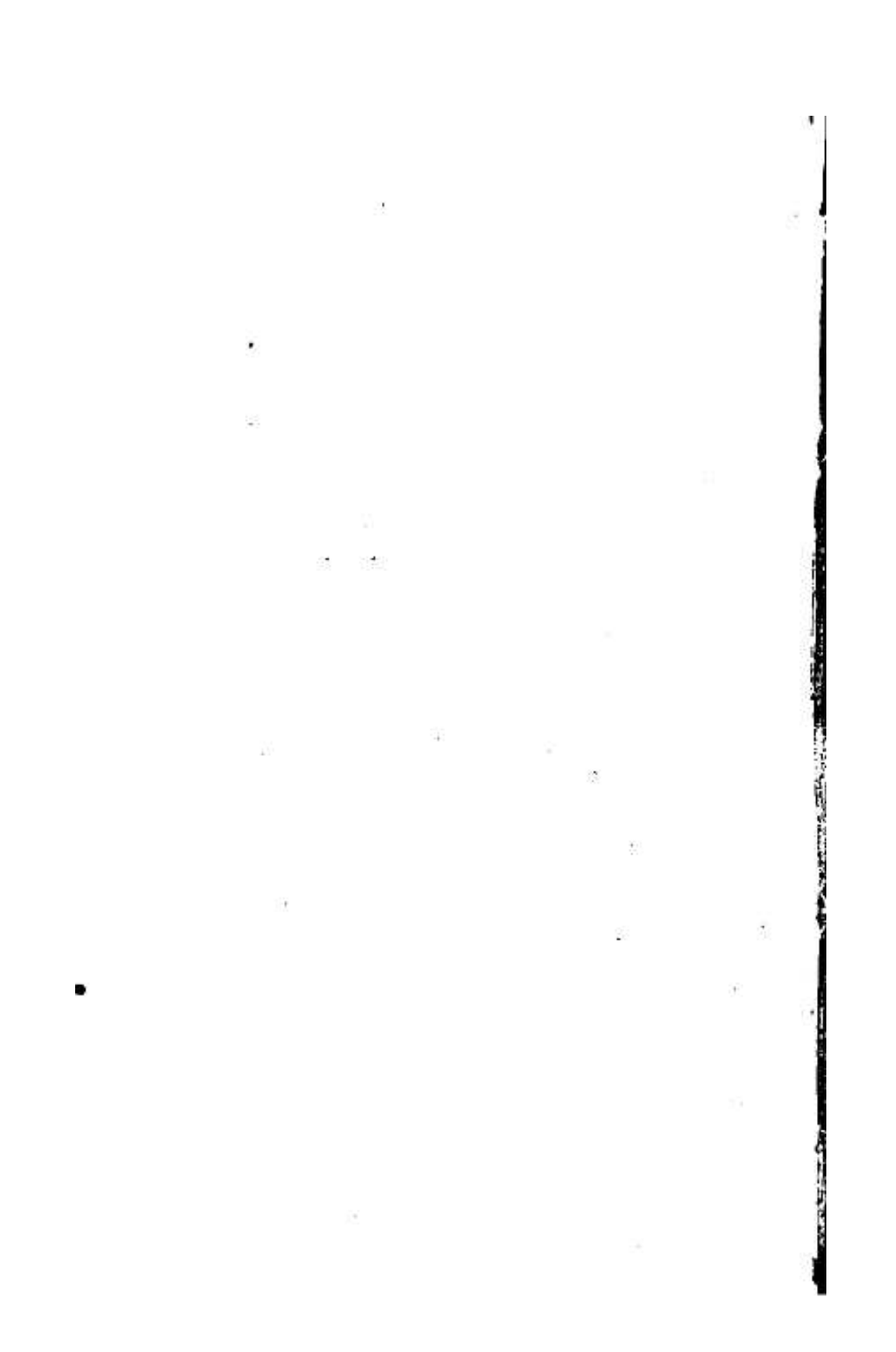
LONDON
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1885

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'THAT VERY MAB.'

CHAPTER I.

UNDER TWO FLAGS.

*' You send out teachers of religion to undermine
and ruin the people.'*

Black Flag Proclamation to the French, 1883.

THE moonlight, in wave on wave of silver, flooded all the Sacred Island. Far away and faint ran the line of the crests of Samoa, like the hills of heaven in the old ballad, or a scene in the Italian opera. Then came a voice from the Calling Place, and the smooth sea thrilled, and all the fishes leaped, and the Sacred Isle itself was moved, and shuddered to its inmost heart. Again and again came the

voice, and now it rose and fell in the cadences of a magical song (or *Karakia*, if we *must* have local colour), and the words were not of this world. Then, behold, the smooth seas began to break and splash round the foremost cape of the Holy Island, and to close again behind, like water before the keel and behind the stern of a running ship, so they plashed, and broke, and fell. Next the surface was stirred far off with the gambolling and sporting of innumerable fishes; the dolphin was tumbling in the van; the flying fish hovered and shone and sank; and clearer, always, and yet more clear came the words of the song from Samoa. Clearer and louder, moment by moment, rose the voice of Queen Mab, where she stood on the Calling Place of the Gods, and chanted to the Islands, and to the sea, and the dwellers in the sea. It was not that she left her stand, nor came nearer, but