## THE LONDON VENTURE

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The London Venture by Michael Arlen

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### MICHAEL ARLEN

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#### By MICHAEL ARLEN

These Charming People The Green Hat "Piracy" The London Venture The Romantic Lady

The London Venture

by Michael Arlen

With Drawings by MICHEL SEVIER



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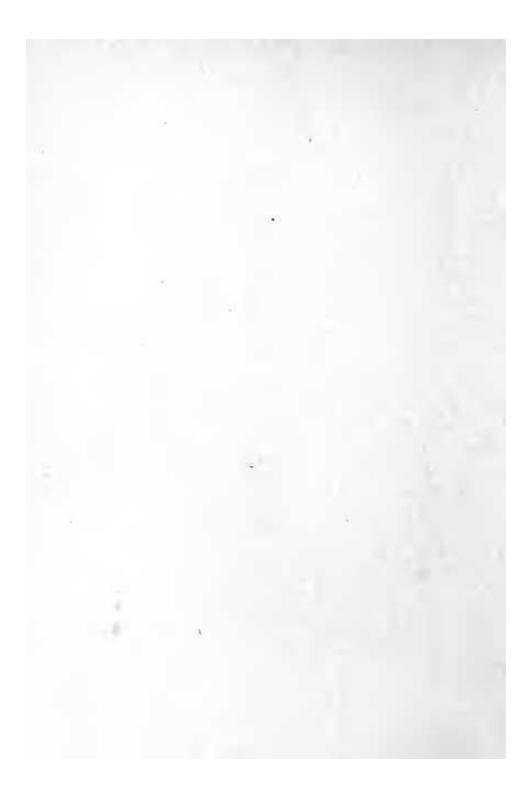
THE LONDON VENTURE

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To THE SISTER of SHELMERDENE



#### APOLOGIA PRO NOMINE MEO

Out 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."

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