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**THOMAS HARDY**

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VOL. 1952.

THE TRUMPET-MAJOR BY THOMAS HARDY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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THE  
TRUMPET-MAJOR

A TALE

BY

THOMAS HARDY.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LEIPZIG  
BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1881.

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CONTENTS  
OF VOLUME II.

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	Page
CHAPTER I. Military Preparations on an extended Scale . . . . .	7
— II. A Letter, a Visitor, and a Tin Box . . . . .	24
— III. Festus shows his Love . . . . .	33
— IV. The Alarm . . . . .	44
— V. Danger to Anne . . . . .	66
— VI. Anne does Wonders . . . . .	79
— VII. A Dissembler . . . . .	99
— VIII. At the Theatre Royal . . . . .	107
— IX. Midnight Visitors . . . . .	122
— X. Deliverance . . . . .	135
— XI. A Discovery turns the Scale . . . . .	146
— XII. A Speck on the Sea . . . . .	167
— XIII. A Sailor enters . . . . .	184
— XIV. Derriman sees Chances . . . . .	196
— XV. Reaction . . . . .	206

	Page
CHAPTER XVI. A Delicate Situation . . . . .	221
— XVII. Bob Loveday struts up and down . . . . .	237
— XVIII. A Call on Business . . . . .	255
— XIX. The Soldier's Tear . . . . .	267

# THE TRUMPET-MAJOR.

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## CHAPTER I.

### MILITARY PREPARATIONS ON AN EXTENDED SCALE.

CHRISTMAS had passed. Dreary winter with dark evenings had given place to more dreary winter with light evenings. Rapid thaws had ended in rain, rain in wind, wind in dust. Showery days had come—the season of pink dawns and white sunsets; and people hoped that the March weather was over.

The chief incident that concerned the household at the mill was that the miller, following the example of all his neighbours, had become a volunteer, and duly appeared twice a week in a red, long-tailed military coat, pipe-clayed breeches, black cloth gaiters, a heel-balled helmet-hat, with a tuft of green wool, and epaulets of the same colour and material. Bob still remained neutral. Not being able to decide whether to enrol himself as a sea-fencible, a