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VOL. 3791; THE GREEN EYE OF
GOONA; STORIES OF A CASE OF
TOKAY**

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ARTHUR MORRISON

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COLLECTION
OF
BRITISH AUTHORS
TAUCHNITZ EDITION.

VOL. 3791.

THE GREEN EYE OF GOONA,
BY
ARTHUR MORRISON.

IN ONE VOLUME.

TAUCHNITZ EDITION.

By the same Author,

TALES OF MEAN STREETS	1 vol.
A CHILD OF THE JAGO	1 vol.
TO LONDON TOWN	1 vol.
CUNNING MURRELL	1 vol.
THE HOLE IN THE WALL	1 vol.

THE
GREEN EYE OF GOONA

STORIES OF A CASE OF TOKAY

BY

ARTHUR MORRISON

AUTHOR OF

"TALES OF MEAN STREETS," "THE HOLE IN THE WALL," ETC.

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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

1905.

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THE GREEN EYE OF GOONA.

I.

THE FIRST MAGNUM.

I.

THE year 1902 drew to a close, and Delhi was swarming thrice its common size in preparation for the Great Durbar, whercat the accession of the first English Emperor of India was to be proclaimed. Northward, beyond the historic Ridge, a new and an even more wonderful Delhi had sprung up in the course of weeks; a Delhi of ten thousand tents, with more than thirty miles of streets between them; a city that it would take a man seven or eight hours of continuous smart marching to walk round.

For weeks the tramp of elephants and horses had

filled the air day by day, and had rarely ceased at night. The camps of the native princes lay in carefully planned order, and the comings and goings of the princes themselves—emulous, proud, jealous, in trifles—were announced punctiliously by the proper number of guns, from twenty-one downward, the envied and eagerly sought salute that grades Indian princes by absolute mathematical scale.

Under the frail canvas of that camp lay the ransom of a hundred kings in gems and gold and precious stuffs. Diamonds, emeralds, rubies, pearls, in strings, in dozens and in scores, each stone a marvel even among the rest, were brought together there in an assemblage impossible to make in any other part of the globe. Even the lesser rajahs, thakores, and nawabs had brought for their adornment many gems of great name, such as singly would stand heirlooms in the royal houses of Europe.

Not the least renowned among these was the Eye of Deccan, the wonderful green diamond belonging to the Rajah of Goona. Indeed, amid that assembly of marvellous gems the Eye of Deccan took rank among the very greatest—far higher rank than the Rajah took

among the princes; for he could claim only a nine-gun salute, which placed him merely in the seventh grade, with the eleven-gun, the thirteen-gun, the fifteen-gun, the seventeen-gun, and the nineteen-gun degrees between it and the topmost rank of twenty-one guns, reserved for the greatest three native princes of all India.

The Eye of Deccan was the more ancient name of the jewel, which nowadays was more commonly called the Eye of Goona. It was famous alike for its colour, its size, and its history. Of coloured diamonds the green are the rarest, and this was not only of a gloriously brilliant emerald tint, but of extraordinary size, being of nearly three times the weight of the renowned pale-green diamond kept at Dresden, as well as of incomparably finer colour. In shape it was an oval brilliant fully an inch and a half long and a shade more than an inch wide. When this amazing stone had left the mine no man could tell, for it had been known all over India as the envy and contention of kings for nearly a thousand years. Purchase, spoliation, murder, treachery, theft, and war had passed it from hand to hand till at last it had rested in the treasure-house of Akbar the Great, and there remained till the death of