VAGABONDS OF THE SEA; THE CAMPAIGN OF A FRENCH CRUISER

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Vagabonds of the sea; the campaign of a French cruiser by Rene Milan

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RENE MILAN

VAGABONDS OF THE SEA; THE CAMPAIGN OF A FRENCH CRUISER



VAGABONDS OF THE SEA

The Campaign of a French Cruiser

BY RENÉ MILAN

Translated by
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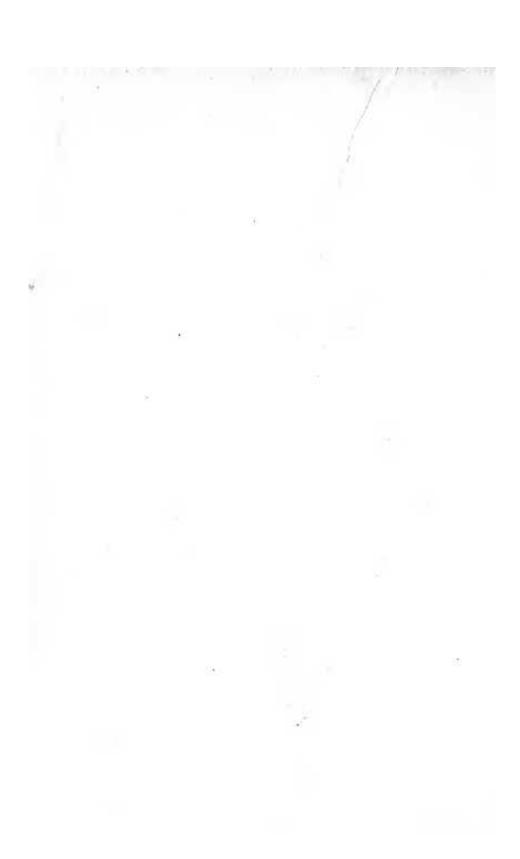
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VAGABONDS OF THE SEA



LIMIV. OF CALIFORNIA

PART I

THE AWAKENING OF THE CRUISER

From Paris to Toulon, end of July, 1914. ROM the corridor I watch through the windows the swift receding of Paris. In this express-train, the last to run according to the normal schedule, are numerous naval officers en route for Toulon. Some have broken their brief vacations; almost all are returning on leaves of absence from their studies. The call of our country sends us towards the sea, that field of battle which we have chosen. To the French Navy belongs the "honor" of the Mediterranean, and our fleet is at its summit of preparedness. We know that the decisive duel will be fought in the fields of Flanders or on the slopes of the Vosges. But our effort will not be useless. We have only one fear-that we shall arrive too late, and miss that battle which our imaginations have pictured without actually believing.

Dijon, Lyons, Valence, Marseilles. I have just left a Paris full of excitement, where life is of so poignant a sweetness that the people are eager to defend the happiness they possess in such abundance. I am traveling through our smiling