# **JUNGLE TALES**

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Jungle tales by B. M. Croker

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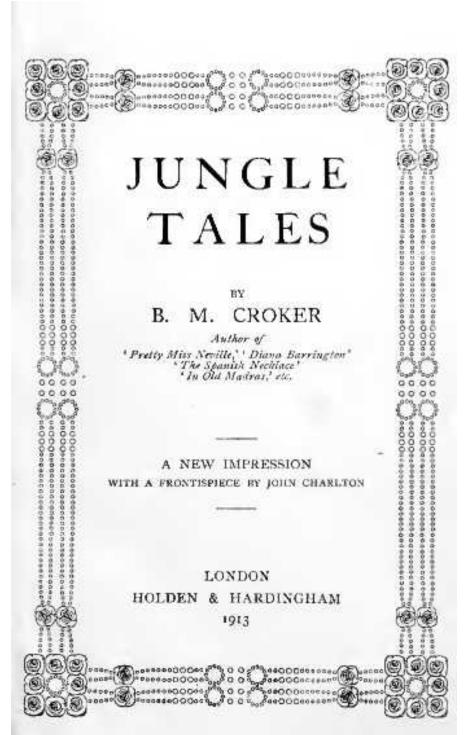
### **B. M. CROKER**

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Marmano Vigia.

JUNGLE TALES



"Ah! what a warning for thoughtless man, Could field or grove, could any spot of earth, Show to his eye an image of the pangs Which it hath witnessed!"

WORDSWORTH,

Stack Annex FR 45/8

#### THESE TALES ARE INSCRIBED

TO

#### OLD FRIENDS

#### IN THE CENTRAL AND NORTH-WEST PROVINCES

IN MEMORY OF

MANY PLEASANT ROURS IN CAMP AND CANTONNENT.

B. M. C.

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### VILLAGE TALES

AND

## JUNGLE TRAGEDIES.

#### A FREE-WILL OFFERING.

"Kismiss," as the natives call it, is anything but a jovial and merry season to me, and I heartily sympathize with those prudent souls who flee from the station or cantonment, and bury themselves afar off in the jungle, until the festive season has been succeeded by the practical New Year! Christmas in India is an expensive anniversary to a needy subaltern such as I am. Putting aside the necessary tips to the mess-servants, the letter-corporal, and colour-sergeant, I have my own retinue (about ten in number), who overwhelm me with wreaths and flowers culled from my

garden, and who expect, in return, solid rupees of the realm. This is reasonable enough; but it passes the limits of reason and patience when other people's body-servants, peons, syces, and all the barrack dhobies, and every "dog" boy in the station, lie in ambush in order to thrust evil-smelling marigolds under my nose, with expectant salaams! Last Christmas cost me nearly the price of a pony—this Christmas, I resolved to fly betimes with my house-mate, Jones of the D.P.W. We would put in for a week's leave, and eat our plum-pudding at least sixty miles from Kori.

Alas! my thrifty little scheme was knocked on the head by a letter from my cousin Algy Langley. He is the eldest son of an eldest son; I am the younger son of a second son: and whereas I am a sub. in an infantry regiment, grilling on the plains of India, and working for my daily bread, Algy has run out for one cold weather, merely in search of variety and amusement.