

THE IPANÉ

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The Ipané by R. B. Cunninghame Graham

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R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM

THE IPANÉ

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“Norroway, Norroway, beyond the Sea.”

TALES OF HEARSAY

BY

JOSEPH CONRAD

With an Introduction by

R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM

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By R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM

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PREFACE

NONE of the following sketches and stories have the least connection with one another, or with each other (*l'un et l'autre se disent.*)

But it may chance that thus collected some one may see in them a nexus undiscerned by me : mystic, I hope, for it is in the fashion, and no one, even in literature, who cares to lag behind.

Now, to my thinking, misapprehension still is rife as to the motives which cause men to write. Books have been written for many purposes, moral, religious, lewd, improving, ethical, and to make people stare ; but many think, even to-day, when education, which, as we all know, intensifies artistic comprehension, spreading it even amongst the educated, is so diffused, that men write books to please a mysterious entity known as the public ; that they regard this Mumbo-Jumbo as politicians do, or as the county councillor who is uncertain even if he be a cuckold till he has duly put the matter to the democratic vote.

Nothing more false. For the most part all books are written from vanity, for hope of gain, either pecuniary or of some other nature, and now and then to please the writer, for it is known

PREFACE

that some have gone to sea for pleasure, and sailors say that those who do so would go to hell for fun.

And so of books. Few men know why they write, and most men are ashamed of all they do when once it stares them in the face in moulded type.

Thank Heaven I wrote that which is here collected to please no single being, and if my own feelings may be taken as the measure of the discerning public's generous judgment, I have succeeded well.

R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM.

January, 1899.