THE GOLDEN PRIME: A NOVEL. IN THREE VOLUMES. VOLUME III

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The golden prime: a novel. In three volumes. Volume III by Frederick Boyle

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FREDERICK BOYLE

THE GOLDEN PRIME: A NOVEL. IN THREE VOLUMES. VOLUME III



THE GOLDEN PRIME.

VOL. HL

THE GOLDEN PRIME

A Nobel.

BY

FREDERICK BOYLE.

AUTHOR OF

"CAMP NOTES," "LEGENDS OF MY BUNGALOW," ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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THE GOLDEN PRIME.

CHAPTER I.

A TRAGEDY.

Is a received the victors very prettily indeed, betwixt smiles and sobs. Her delight at seeing Garrow safe could not be repressed, but her father's wound, and the disaster of her people, caused sharp suffering. Aysha met them sad and stately, kissed their hands, and pressed them to her bosom in the graceful Lanun fashion of displaying gratitude. It was coldly done, and Pier was surprised to feel how the heart beat. The girls sent a letter to the

Rajah, begging leave to nurse him; but it was sternly refused.

On the following day arrived a war-prau of the Lanuns, carrying a deputation. After much delay, the Sultan received it, and announced his resolve. These new-comers, several hundred strong in warriors, beside their families, must leave at once for Tampasuk, where many of their countrymen are settled, refugees, like themselves, from English, Dutch, or Spanish cruisers. The most jealous care was taken to prevent the chiefs communicating with any one who could not be trusted implicitly, and they little thought that many scores of captive women saw their flags go past with streaming eyes. But some explanation of events they demanded, resolutely though respectfully. An inkling of the truth had to be revealed, and the Vizier admitted that their Rajah was now in Bruni; but, he added, the old man will probably die to-night. This significant announcement was carried to the English

gentlemen by Makota, who had been present at the audience. He came hastily to declare, that if the lang de per Tuan decreed the Rajah's death he could not protect him, and Sweyn instantly ordered his canoe to fetch the old man away.

Meanwhile, the Consul brought other news in person. An English trading-ship had been chartered by the Governor of Labuan to take them away, and it would arrive that night; one of his own swift despatch boats had outsailed it easily from the Bay, bringing letters. The Governor added, that since engaging the 'Eliza' he had intelligence of a man-o'-war available for the like service, which would be also sent immediately.

The home mail had no special interest, besides a pleasant, affectionate note nominally from Lady Latham, dictated to her daughter, but full of those pretty, girlish nothings that read so delightfully to exiled men. Pier was overjoyed with this apparent proof