

**THE EBB-TIDE: A
TRIO AND
QUARTETTE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649176922

The ebb-tide: a trio and quartette by Robert Louis Stevenson & Lloyd Osbourne

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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON & LLOYD OSBOURNE

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TRIO AND
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The Ebb-Tide

A Trio and Quartette

By

Robert Louis Stevenson

and

Lloyd Osbourne

'There is a tide in the affairs of men'

London

William Heinemann

MDCCCXCIV

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*NOTE.—On the pronunciation
of a name very frequently re-
peated in these pages, the reader
may take for a guide :—*

¹ It was the schooner *Favillon*.

R. L. S.—L. O.

Part I

The Trio

The Ebb-Tide

CHAPTER I

NIGHT ON THE BEACH

THROUGHOUT the island world of the Pacific, scattered men of many European races and from almost every grade of society carry activity and disseminate disease. Some prosper, some vegetate. Some have mounted the steps of thrones and owned islands and navies. Others again must marry for a livelihood; a strapping, merry, chocolate-coloured dame supports them in sheer idleness; and, dressed like natives, but still retaining some foreign element of gait or attitude, still perhaps with some relic (such as a single eye-glass) of the officer and gentleman, they sprawl in palm-leaf verandahs and entertain an island audience with memoirs of the music-hall. And there are still others, less pliable, less capable, less fortunate, perhaps less base, who continue, even in these isles of plenty, to lack bread.