

**THE GREEN HILLS BY THE
SEA: A MANX STORY; IN
THREE VOLUMES; VOL. III**

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The green hills by the sea: A Manx story; in three volumes; Vol. III by Hugh Coleman Davidson

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HUGH COLEMAN DAVIDSON

**THE GREEN HILLS BY THE
SEA: A MANX STORY; IN
THREE VOLUMES; VOL. III**

M. B. Midvale
N. W. P.
THE *1887.*

GREEN HILLS BY THE SEA

A MANX STORY

BY

HUGH COLEMAN DAVIDSON

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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OF
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THE GREEN HILLS BY THE SEA.

CHAPTER I.

SUSPENSE.

DALRYMPLE'S departure was followed by an uneasy calm, as if the very atmosphere had undergone a change. It formed the chief topic of conversation; people got into a habit of talking about it in whispers; and festivities were almost completely abandoned.

Members of large communities will find it hard to realise the hold which this one

man had taken upon the town. In order to do so, they must think of the sudden removal of a very agreeable or very disagreeable person from their own households. Personal influence is like an odour, sometimes penetrating to a great distance, and sometimes scarcely able to get beyond its source. In Dalrymple's case, it was most pungent, tickling some noses pleasantly enough, but rasping others until there arose a consuming desire to put a barrier between themselves and this noxious thing. Those who disliked him lived in an uncomfortable state of expectation, as if he might drop upon them from the clouds at any moment; and those who liked him felt dispirited, because the main-spring of their gaiety was gone.

In two other quarters his absence was deeply regretted, but for very different

reasons. He was sorely missed by Bobby Beg, who had confidently looked forward to an opportunity of tweaking his flexible nose. He was also missed by the Colquitts, who learned for the first time how invaluable he had been to them. He had been their one visitor; his attentions had become part of their daily life; and now he was gone and they were left alone.

Frank and Ned, divided from one another, did not venture to stretch out a helping hand. Considering all the circumstances, they thought it better for everybody that they should stay away. And so the Colquitts drifted towards the breakers, destitution in front, and illness already upon them.

Mona, who had vainly tried to get pupils, could not but shudder when she looked ahead. The whole weight of responsibility