THE LADY, OR THE TIGER? AND OTHER STORIES

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The Lady, or the Tiger? And Other Stories by Frank R. Stockton

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FRANK R. STOCKTON

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BY FRANK R. STOCKTON

RUDOUR GRANGE THE LATE MRS. NULL ARDIS CLAVERDEN THE HOUSE OF MARYRA POMONA'S TRAVELS THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN BORN MRS. CLIFY'S YACHT THE GIBL AT COMMUNIT THE LADY OF THE TIGER THE CHRISTMAS WEDGE THE REE-MAN OF ORM AMOS KILKRIGHT THE RUDDER GRANGERS ARROAD THE WATCHMAKER'S WIFE A STORY TELLER'S PACK AFFRID AND AFFOAT JOHN GAYTHER'S GARDEN A CHOSEN VIEW

BOUNDABOUT RAWBLES
TALES OUT OF SCHOOL
A FOLLY FELLOWSHIP
THE FLOATING PRINCS
THE TING-A-LING TALES
THE STORY OF VITEAU
PERSONALLY CONDUCTED
THE CLOCKS OF BONDAINE
THE QUEEN'S MUREUM
FANCIPUL TALES

CHARLES SCRIBNERS SONS

THE LADY, OR THE TIGER?

AND OTHER STORIES

11

FRANK R. STOCKTON

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THE LADY, OR THE TIGER?

N the very olden time, there lived a semi-barbaric king, whose ideas, though somewhat polished and sharpened by the progressiveness of distant Latin neighbors, were still large, florid, and untrammelled, as became the half of him which was barbaric. He was a man of exuberant fancy, and, withal, of an authority so irresistible that, at his will, he turned his varied He was greatly given to selffancies into facts. communing; and, when he and himself agreed upon any thing, the thing was done. When every member of his domestic and political systems moved smoothly in its appointed course, his nature was bland and genial; but whenever there was a little hitch, and some of his orbs got out of their orbits, he was blander and more genial still, for nothing pleased him so much as to make the crooked straight, and crush down uneven places.

Among the borrowed notions by which his barbarism had become semified was that of the public arena, in which, by exhibitions of manly and beastly valor, the minds of his subjects were refined and cultured.