

BY REEF & PALM

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By reef & palm by Louis Becke

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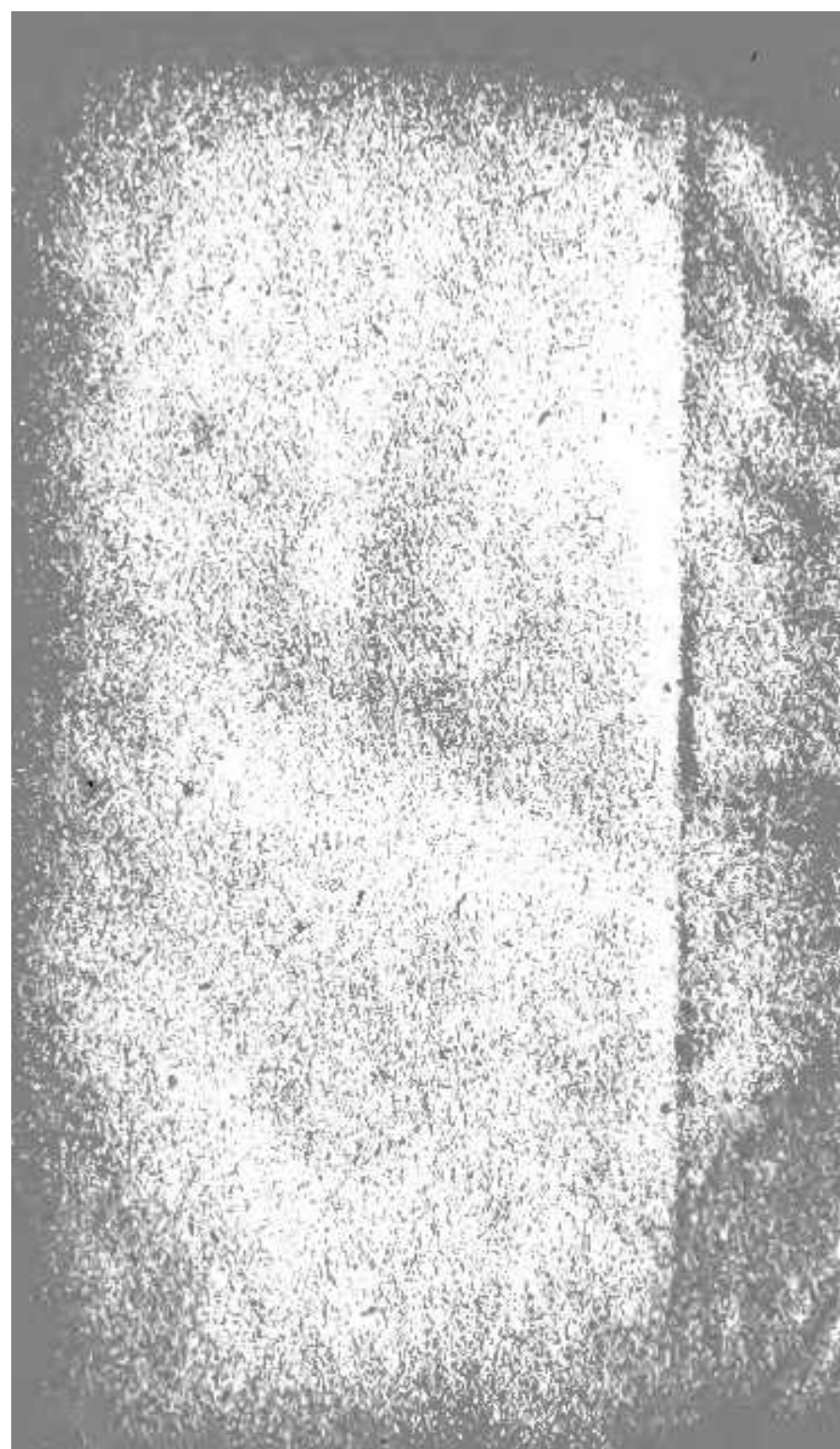
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CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	I
CHALLIS THE DOUBTER	18
“ 'TIS IN THE BLOOD ”	33
THE REVENGE OF MACY O'SHEA	42
THE RANGERS OF THE TIA KAU	56
PALLOU'S TALOI	66
A BASKET OF BREAD-FRUIT.	79
ENDERBY'S COURTSHIP	89
LONG CHARLEY'S GOOD LITTLE WIFE	105
THE METHODICAL MR. BURK OF MAJURU	115
A TRULY GREAT MAN	128
THE DOCTOR'S WIFE.	137
THE FATE OF THE <i>ALIDA</i>	148
THE CHILIAN BLUEJACKET.	181
BRANTLEY OF VAHITAHU	220



BY REEF AND PALM

INTRODUCTION

WHEN in October, 1870, I sailed into the harbour of Apia, Samoa, in the ill-fated *Albatross*, Mr. Louis Becke was gaining his first experiences of island life as a trader on his own account by running a cutter between Apia and Savaii.

It was rather a notable moment in Apia, for two reasons. In the first place, the German traders were shaking in their shoes for fear of what the French squadron might do to them, and we were the bearers of the good news from Tahiti that the chivalrous Admiral Clouet, with a very proper magnanimity, had decided not to molest them ;