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**A STRANGE ELOPEMENT**



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A STRANGE ELOPEMENT



BY

W. CLARK RUSSELL

AUTHOR OF "A SAILOR'S SWEETHEART," ETC., ETC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY W. H. OVEREND

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## I

MR. GEORGE PELLEW

HAVING perfectly recovered my health after a term of sick-leave that had run into many months, I went on board the *Light of Asia* at Plymouth. In this ship I had taken my passage to Calcutta to rejoin my regiment. I am writing of thirty years ago, when the road to the East lay by way of the Cape of Good Hope, and when a voyage to India signified a residence of four, sometimes of five, months on board ship.

The *Light of Asia* was a large Blackwall liner, as a certain class of vessels which sailed from the Thames used to be called. She rose to a burthen of about fifteen hundred tons, which in those days constituted a big ship. I have the picture of her before me now as she