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JACK CURZON

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**Jack Curzon**

*(Being a portion of the Records of the Managing Clerk of  
Martin, Thompson & Co., English Merchants  
doing business in Hong Kong, Manila,  
Cebu and the Straits Settlements)*

*A NOVEL*

BY

**ARCHIBALD CLAVERING GUNTER,**

AUTHOR OF

"Mr. Barnes of New York," "Bob Covington,"  
"Billy Hamilton" etc., etc.

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NEW YORK  
**HURST & COMPANY**  
PUBLISHERS

29043



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*(Being a portion of the records of the managing clerk of Martin, Thompson & Co., English Merchants doing business in Hong Kong, Manila, Cebu, and the Straite Settlements.)*

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## JACK CURZON.

## BOOK I.

## MY CONTRACT WITH THE KATIPUNAN.

*(Being a portion of the Records of the Managing Clerk of Martin, Thompson & Co., English Merchants doing business in Hong Kong, Manila, Cebu and the Straits Settlements.)*

## CHAPTER I.

"YOU SABE, MANILA NO GOOD!"

HONG KONG is sizzling in a summer day of 1896. But Hong Kong always sizzles; not that the thermometer is so high, but the humidity is so tremendous.

"By Jove, Jack, I've lived in the furnace air of upper Egypt, Dongola, and all that, don't yer know," mutters little Ponsomby of the postal service, "but hang me, this is existing in 'biling' water. Next we will have 'biling' oil *à la Mikado!* Why the deuce don't those beastly punka-boys stir their lazy carcasses?"

But I, John Talboys Curzon, am too languid to answer this remark, and sit lazily listening to the creaking of the punka, dreamily looking out of the window of the English Club on the passing concourse of Wyndham Street and Queen's Road, and wishing I was over at Kowlung on the other side of the harbor where the southwest monsoon blows upon the pretty white villas, and gives a little relief to the infernal sizzle of humanity in the British metropolis of south-eastern China.

The passers-by on the main thoroughfare of Hong Kong do not interest me greatly.