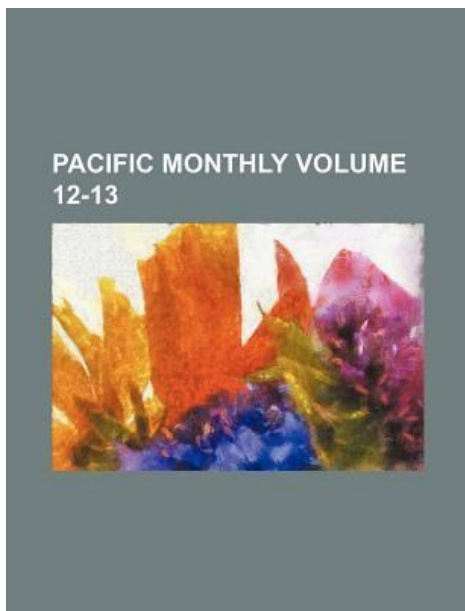


Pacific Monthly Volume 12-13

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1904 Excerpt: ...Certainly not, Graeie, dear. You had better tell papa or he is liable to make a fiasco of the whole thing when he sees him. At the top of the broad staircase, which was built of solid onyx--a work of art in mass and detail--Billy stood planning the best way of escape. A flood of light reflected his tattered appearance in the highly polished steps as he descended, making him move cautiously, for it seemed more like liquid beneath his feet than solid marble. He would have lost no time in taking French leave out the front door but on either side of it stood a footman in livery, and thinking they were guards wanting to know his business, he elbowed his way aimlessly through the rooms and finally drew up at the buffet. Here he dispensed for himself several drinks of wine and liquor, which trickled like molten lead through his empty interior, but gave a wonderfully vitalizing effect. As he turned to go away a tall, corpulent man, representing the Prince of Wales, caught him by the arm and said: Hello, Billy! Would you like to join wiln ub in a game of cards? Billy staggered and muttered beneath his breath: Its all up with me now he knows me name. Then he answered with some hesitancy: Dont care if I do, sor. Only a four-handed game, you know, said the Prince, pleasantly, as he led the way to the den, followed by Billy and two other gentlemen, one of whom had assumed the character of a well-known naval officer, and the other Silbershtine, a shoestring peddler. The den was a small room, elegantly finished and furnished in antique Flemish style--luxurious and comfortable. They closed the door to secure privacy, and after having lit their cigars, which they selected from a wonderfully wrought ...

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