

ENGLISH HOMES IN INDIA.

PART I.—THE THREE LOVES.

PART II.—THE WRONG TURNING.

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PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

THE writer of these volumes—an accomplished member of a family whose name is conspicuous in Indian story—being now resident in India, they have not had the benefit of her final corrections. It is hoped, however, that this inevitable drawback will detract but little from the pleasure to be afforded by the perusal of the tales, which are, indeed, what they profess to be, stories of English Homes in India, represented as such homes are, in different parts of the country and under various social and professional aspects. They endeavour fairly and without exaggeration to illustrate Anglo-Indian life as it is, in its many varying phases, and to bring upon the scene, in their every day costume, many kinds of Anglo-Indian workmen, from the Resident at a native Court, to the subaltern-officer and the railway employé ; and it is believed that all who have visited the countries described will recognise the truth of the portraiture.

ENGLISH HOMES IN INDIA.

CHAPTER I.

THE sweet, early sunshine of an English June morning (and when the sun does shine in English June, how very sweet it is !) peeped into few pleasanter spots than the grounds of a little villa on the banks of the Thames, where it fell in playful ripples through ash and lilac branches, on a velvety grass plat, jewelled with tiny flower beds, slanting more boldly across the smooth gravelled walk in front of the villa steps, and finally glanced, with a bright, loving ray, into the fairest spot of all, a neat bed-chamber, tenanted by two young girls. Very pretty and fresh was the little room, with its graceful white curtains, edged with pink, round the windows and the two little beds, and about