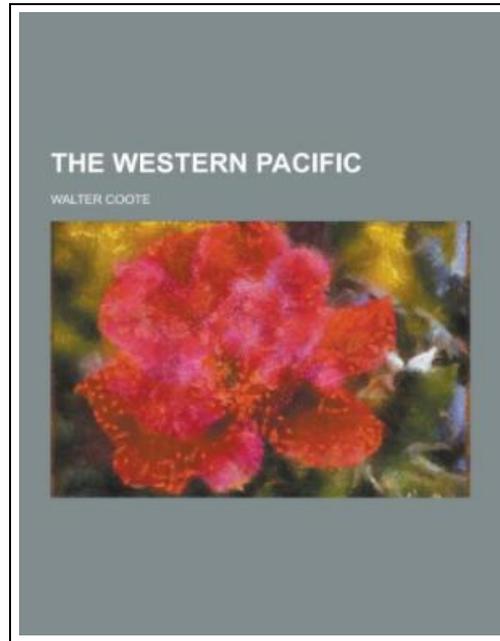


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THE WESTERN PACIFIC



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Theclassics.us, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1883 edition. Excerpt: . INTRODUCTION. FOR the last three hundred years the islands of the Western Pacific have attracted the attention of Europeans to a greater or less extent, but only twice during that period has the interest attached to this part of the world reached the point at which it now stands. The first of these occasions was doubtless when the intrepid Spanish navigators returned home after the discovery of the Solomon Islands, and the second when that extraordinary phenomenon, the South Sea Bubble, was exciting the imagination of all classes of the community. At the present moment the possibility of our becoming the sovereign power in the Western Pacific has once more directed people's attention to the South Seas, and I am therefore hopeful that the following chapters will supply something of a want, as the prospectus of a new newspaper would have it. Of the island of New Guinea--which, indeed, might almost more reasonably be called a continent, considering its enormous size--I hesitate to speak more than slightly, for I have never been there; and were I to attempt to describe it within the same cover as my chapters on the Polynesian groups, I might rightly be accused of mere bookmaking. Having, however, passed the Torres Straits and sighted some of the outlying islands, and having heard so much, almost upon the spot, concerning that most interesting of the remaining unknown portions of the world, I may perhaps include New Guinea in such...

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