

PREFACE

THROUGH this tale of the '60's there runs a substratum of fact.

The feminine influence wielded by Southern women at the court of the Tuileries would have succeeded in bringing about Napoleon's recognition of the Confederate States, but for England's refusal to co-operate with him, a refusal known to have been due to the personal influence of the Great Queen.

The keen financial and social interests, the elaborate network of plots and spies, that the blockade-running brought to out-lying places like Halifax, Nassau and Bermuda, are still remembered by many men and women. The sea adventures of Captain Arthur are founded on those of an English navy officer who for several years ran the blockade successfully under an assumed name, subsequently becoming an Admiral in the Turkish service.

The shipwreck of a Southern hospital nurse while running the blockade from Halifax was a fact, with the great difference that in real life the heroine was weighed down by a belt of gold, and lost her life.

ALIX JOHN.