

CONTENTS

1	Browsing through books, two students meet one day. A mother mopes; a medal melts away.	I
2	A courtesan sings coolly through the heat. A hopeful lover buys a parakeet.	77
3	A couple glide down-river in a boat. A mother hears that mischief is afloat.	139
4	Two men discuss the Brahmipur leather trade. A pair of brogues (maroon) is planned and made.	203
5	Blood soaks a lane, and bullets ricochet. A legislative vixen baits her prey.	243
6	A baby kicks; a bloodshot Raja yowls. A young man speeds downhill; a father growls.	311
7	Calcutta simmers in a stew of talk. A cemetery affords a pleasing walk.	397
8	Beneath the neem the village children play. Worn cattle churn the burning earth to clay.	539
9	A desperate mother ventures to deploy Fair means or foul to net a suitable boy.	591
10	A wolf-hunt is arranged; at Baitar Fort A cheated marksman looks for further sport.	665
11	Old landlords sue the state to keep their lands. Crushed corpses rot upon the holy sands.	741
12	A kiss brings fury, <i>Twelfth Night</i> sparks a snub, And even bridge stokes tumult at the Club.	823
13	A child is born; wise women come to look. A cobbler writes. A poet mails his book.	909
14	The Prime Minister fights, and keeps his head. Sad sons assuage the spirits of their dead.	1033
15	The flames of Karbala and Lanka blaze, Igniting madness through the city's maze.	1119

16	Calcutta Christmas lights festoon Park Street; And at a cricket match three suitors meet.	1185
17	Someone is stabbed in Brahmipur, someone dies, While private shame is viewed by public eyes.	1259
18	One person, five, and forty thousand choose; Some win, some draw, and — as must be — some lose.	1363
19	The curtain falls; the players take their bow And wander off the stage — at least for now.	1443