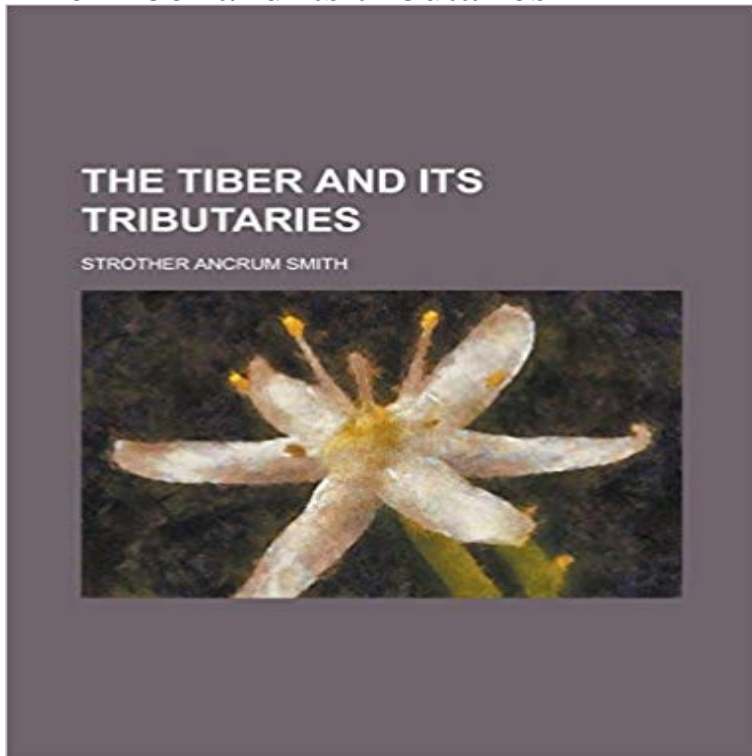


The Tiber and its tributaries



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. 1877 edition. Excerpt: ...The proper course for redeeming the land would have been, not to embank the river, but to dredge its bed and to remove, as far as possible, every obstruction to the flow of the water. Afterwards transverse embankments should have been formed, extending from the Po to the nearest rising ground. If there should be no rise in the ground for a considerable distance, the embankments might be made to curve inwards at their extremities, so as to unite at last and enclose a space. The river, then, should have been allowed to have its own way and overflow the land at will. The earthworks which I have described by dividing the flooded area into compartments, within which the water was comparatively stagnant, would have prevented the current from tearing up the ground, and at the same time have favoured the deposit of mud. The sediment would at once have fertilised the ground and raised its height above the Po. Something would have been gained every year, and, as in the case of the Chiana, the land would have continued to rise, until, in course of time, the due relation was established between the level of the river and that of the country on either side. Floods would still have occurred, but they would have been far less destructive in their effects, and when the river fell, the water would all have drained into it, leaving the land free for the operations of the agriculturist. But now, owing to the depression of the country below the level of the Po, the water of the inundation can disappear only by evaporation or by soaking into the earth; and, therefore, remains for weeks or months upon the ground, chilling and scouring the land, and preventing it from being prepared for

future crops. But, as matters have gone so far, nothing remains but to...

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