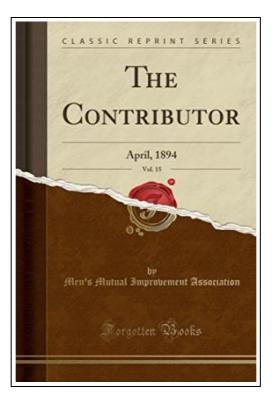
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Excerpt from The Contributor, Vol. 15: April, 1894 Since water pipes have been brought into the Pera quarter, large fires have become infrequent, but outside of Pera the burning down of one to ten wooden structures (which material predominates) is almost of weekly occurrence, making one hundred to one hundred and fifty houses which annually blaze away. The last great fire was in 1870, when half Pera with six thousand homes and nearly four thousand people were burned; later, in 1886, the de structive ames rolled over Scutari, and in little more than ten hours left almost the entire district in cinders. They have a military fire brigade (ilfa Alai) well enough organized, and it appears to work well, but the narrow, tangled streets render it diffi cult to get their engines close enough. Constantinople boasts of an unique body of men known as Tulumbagz es (pump-men). They are porters, laborers, etc., of every nationality, and nationalities are numerous there, who at the first alarm, given from the Galata tower with ags and red balls by day, and colored lights by night, are up and off, carrying a small four-handed pump engine on their shoulders. Rushing along the streets, barefooted and half-naked, upsetting and running over every thing and everybody who chances to be in the way, they scream and howl incessantly. They may have to run an hour or two before reaching the place, but that makes no difference, to them at least; exhaustion and they are strangers. When the fire is reached, their actions take on another phase; they promptly set down the hand-squirt, rush into the burning house and under the pretense of saving the goods, pile everything...

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