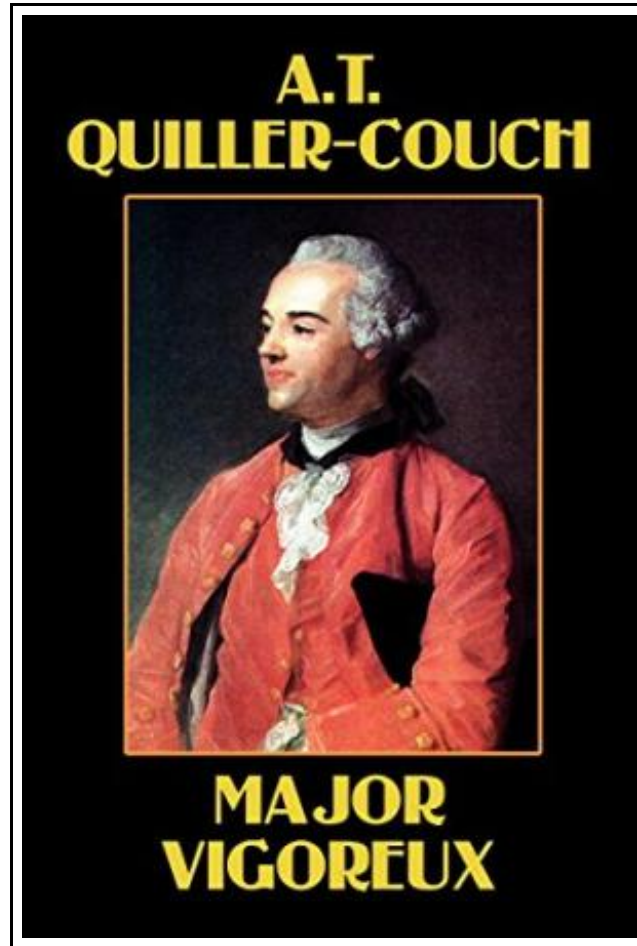


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Wildside Press, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 148 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.For a dozen years Major Narcisse Vigoureux had been, for an unmarried man, an exceedingly happy one. If you ask me how an officer bearing such a name happened in command of a British garrison, I answer that he was not a Frenchman, but a Channel Islander of good Jersey descent; and this again helped him to understand the folk over whom he ruled. The wrong-doers feared him; but they were few. By the rest of the population, including his soldiers, he was beloved, respected, not a little envied. For a bachelor he mingled with zest in the small social amusements of Garland Town, the capital of the Islands. He shone at picnics and water-parties. He played a fair hand at whist. His manner towards ladies was deferential; towards men, dignified without a trace of patronage or self-conceit. All voted him a good fellow. At first, indeed -- for he practised small economies, and his linen, though clean, was frayed -- they suspected him of stinginess, until by accident the Vicar discovered that a great part of his pay went to support his dead brother's family -- a widow and two girls who lived at Notting Hill, London, in far from affluent circumstances. In spite of this the Commandant's lot might fairly have been called enviable until the day which terminated the ninety-nine years lease upon which the Duke held the Islands. Everyone took it for granted that he would apply, as his predecessors had twice applied, for a renewal. But, no; like a bolt from the blue came news that the Duke, an old man, had waived his application in favour of an unknown...

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