

**THE DOWNING
LEGENDS,
STORIES IN RHYME**

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The Downing legends, stories in rhyme by J. W. De Forest

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J. W. DE FOREST

**THE DOWNING
LEGENDS,
STORIES IN RHYME**



J. W. DeForest (1892)

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THE DOWNING LEGENDS

Stories in Rhyme

THE WITCH OF SHILOH

THE LAST OF THE WAMPANOAGS

THE GENTLE EARL

THE ENCHANTED VOYAGE

BY
J. W. DeFOREST

AUTHOR OF A LOVER'S REVOLT, THE ODDDEST OF COURTSHIPS, IRENE THE MISSIONARY,
PLAYING THE MISCHIEF, JUSTINE'S LOVERS, HONEST JOHN YANE, THE WETHER-
ELL AFFAIR, KATE BEAUMONT, OVERLAND, MISS HAVENEL'S CONVERSION,
SEACLIFF, EUROPEAN ACQUAINTANCE, ORIENTAL ACQUAINTANCE,
WITCHING TIMES, ETC., ETC.

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PREFACE

In regard to form the Downing Legends are rhymed "magazine stories."

In regard to spirit they are extravaganzas. They will not be liked except by readers who like such works as the *Odyssey*, the *Arabian Nights*, the *Orlando Innamorato* of Boiardo and Berni, the *Orlando Furioso* of Ariosto, the *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Knickerbocker's History of New York*, and Hawthorne's *Wonder Tales*.

Of course Downing is American "manifest destiny" in a whimsical guise. As to an exact correspondence between his adventures and our national doings I leave that question to Congress, the Supreme Court and the American people, sitting in joint referendum.

These adventures will no doubt be stigmatized by critic Gradgrind as incredible, unpractical and absurd. From his judgment I appeal confidently, like any other author, to remote posterity.

Good old Mr. Feeble Mind (well known to admirers of Bunyan) will also have somewhat to say, which will not be clearly understood, and so need not be answered, at least not prophetically.

