

**GILMAN'S HISTORICAL READERS,
NO. III; THE MAKING OF
THE AMERICAN NATION; A BOOK
FOR AMERICAN BOYS AND
GIRLS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649050055

Gilman's Historical Readers, No. III; The Making of the American Nation; A Book for American Boys and Girls by Arthur Gilman

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ARTHUR GILMAN

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GILMAN'S HISTORICAL READERS. — No. III.

THE
MAKING OF THE AMERICAN NATION

A BOOK FOR AMERICAN BOYS AND GIRLS

BY

ARTHUR GILMAN, M. A.,

AUTHOR OF A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, FIRST STEPS IN
ENGLISH LITERATURE, FIRST STEPS IN GENERAL HISTORY,
TALES OF THE PAT-FINDERS, THE STORY OF
THE SARACENS, ETC.



CHICAGO

THE INTERSTATE PUBLISHING COMPANY
BOSTON: 30 FRANKLIN STREET



PREFACE.

WHEN the late John Richard Green took for the title of one of his interesting works, "The Making of England," he intended to write a history of the period when English political and social life took the form that it retains at the present time. He really presented a history of the period before the "age of full national development," as he himself said. His title gave the reader reason to expect rather an account of "the formation and growth of England as a nation," as one of his friendly critics remarked.

The term "Making of the American Nation," as used in the title of the present volume, is intended to mean the process by which the loosely connected American communities outgrew their colonial condition of social and political life, and developed into a nation.

In writing for young persons the author feels the necessity of being at once clear, accurate, and concise, — of omitting those details of politics and war which form to a great extent the substance of history in general, and of firmly keeping in hand the line of thought, so that the process of national growth and the causes and results of

great national discussions, will be apparent to the careful reader at all times.

The purpose of the series of which this is the third volume, is to give young readers such a sketch of the history of their native or adopted country as will not only lead them to desire to know more about it, but will also furnish them an outline that will not be found barren and unfruitful if their opportunities for historical study chance to be limited to these books.

To the works of original research that the author mentioned in the former volumes are to be added others which give fresh studies of particular portions of the period here under discussion. In wading through the record of the war of parties and the bloody stories of civil strife, the author has endeavored to free his mind from all party bias, his only wish being to keep himself true to that idea of an American Nation which filled the mind of the Father of his Country. If our sons and daughters can be educated to have a proper appreciation of their country without arrogance, and a regard for other nations without cringing obsequiousness, we may feel that we are in a fair way to bring up a nation that will be strong and respected.

CAMBRIDGE, May, 1887.





CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE AMERICANS OBJECT TO CERTAIN TAXES	7
II. THE AMERICANS TALK ABOUT UNION	13
III. SOME VIRGINIAN NEIGHBORS	18
IV. THE NEIGHBORS THE FRIENDS	24
V. THE NEIGHBORS AT MANHATTAN	25
VI. THE NEIGHBORS IN BOSTON	31
VII. TUMULTS EVERYWHERE	33
VIII. A PALTRY TAX ON TEA	43
IX. A NATION FOUNDED IN THE CARPENTERS' HALL	50
X. WHAT GENERAL GAGE WAS DOING	56
XI. THE BATTLE ON BUNKER'S HILL	65
XII. THE HERO FROM VIRGINIA	69
XIII. THE FOURTH OF JULY	75
XIV. HOW THE COLONIES BECAME A CONFEDERACY	82
XV. HOW THE WAR WAS WAGED	88
XVI. TROUBLES THAT CAME WITH PEACE	94
XVII. WASHINGTON THE FIRST PRESIDENT	101
XVIII. A GREAT INVENTION FOR THE SOUTH	106
XIX. THE STRIFE OF PARTIES	109

XX.	ANOTHER WAR WITH ENGLAND	118
XXI.	GOOD FEELING AND HOPE	123
XXII.	THE COUNTRY FILLING UP	128
XXIII.	SOUTH CAROLINA RESTIVE	133
XXIV.	A GREAT INCREASE OF TERRITORY	140
XXV.	ANOTHER COMPROMISE	146
XXVI.	DRIFTING INTO TROUBLE	152
XXVII.	WAR BETWEEN BRETHREN	158
XXVIII.	PEACE AND RECONCILIATION	164
XXIX.	PROGRESS OF THE RE-UNITED COUNTRY	170
XXX.	A POLITICAL CRISIS	175
XXXI.	A NATION FULL-GROWN	181





THE MAKING OF THE AMERICAN NATION.

CHAPTER I.

THE AMERICANS OBJECT TO CERTAIN TAXES.



Y the year 1763 the authority of England was supreme over the great territory east of the Mississippi River. It was her sailors who first proved the existence of the continent. Her daring explorers had very early seen the importance of the "Atlantic slope," as the strip of land is called which for a long period comprised the greatest cities, towns, and commercial interests of the Western World. Now they had won it.

The men who peopled this region had most of them come from England, because they had been oppressed there. They wanted more freedom of

action, and they found it. Such men were not inclined to submit quietly to a lessening of the liberty they had fled from their mother-country to obtain. Least of all would they submit to an effort to limit their freedom when put forth by the king under whose government they had suffered. That the king, his ministers, and the parliament had interfered in the affairs of the colonists in a way that they did not like, we have already seen.

The Americans had no desire to be represented in the home government, and they did not complain that they were constrained in their personal liberty; but they objected to the navigation laws that kept them from buying and selling where they pleased, and they complained that they were arbitrarily taxed in vexatious ways.

Benjamin Franklin, of whom we shall have much to say, was a Boston boy who was brought up as a printer, and afterward lived in Philadelphia. He became a very important citizen in the capital of Pennsylvania. The people there saw that his head was clear, that he was wise, and not afraid of anybody. He printed a newspaper, he published an almanac that contained many wise sayings, he founded a great