

RUNES OF THE RED RACE

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Runes of the red race by Frank C. Riehl

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FRANK C. RIEHL

**RUNES OF
THE RED RACE**

THE
LIFE
OF
THE
LORD
OF
THE
MOUNTAINS
BY
J. H. M. J. VAN
DER
WATER
PUBLISHED
BY
THE
LONDON
PUBLISHERS
1917



*"And looking off across the vast
Wide ranges, stretching out before."*

Runes of the Red Race

Frank C. Riehl

Alton, Illinois
Melling & Gaskins, Publishers
1899

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70/5
70/1

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MELLING & GASKINS
PRINTERS AND BINDERS

PS
2535
J44
R8
1899
MAIN

Dedication

What happy days in field and camp,
When erst these various tales were told!
What recollections they recall
Of hours that held life's purest gold!
In meagre recompense of all
The writer's part in these fair joys,
Proudly this volume is inscribed
To Captain Harry and "The Boys."

M191830

Preface

TO the very generous reception accorded by the public to my former book, "Poems of the Piasa," is due this second venture into the field of modern poetic literature. Like the former volume, too, it is keyed in the reminiscent measure of legendary and semi-historic themes as related to the passing of the North American Indian from the world's stage of action.

Reared in a region where the traces of inhabitation by the Indians have not yet been obliterated by civilization, and are everywhere to be seen, the writer's earliest impressions were formed on this subject, and he early conceived the idea that here was a theme worthy of study and research which thus far had been practically neglected from the literary point of view. It was under this conception that the Legend of the Piasa and other kindred poems, published in 1896, were written while

the composer was engaged, as a boy, in the arduous duties of farm life on the old homestead. The indorsement of this work, first by personal friends, and later by a constantly widening circle of the reading public, has so far confirmed the writer's first belief as to prompt the preparation of the more pretentious tales which appear under the present title.

The first poem, dealing with the conquest of the Illini by their old foes, the Iroquois, is essentially historic, and covers an act in this tragedy of nations which, so far as the writer is aware, has never been consistently recorded. The other poems in this department are merely the fruitage of occasional thoughts, and versifications of vague legends gleaned in the periodical pursuit of this general subject. That they deal rather with the dark than the sunny side of life is no design of the writer's, but a necessary consistency with the character of the theme.

The illustrations used in this book are exact photographic reproductions, and may convey to foreign readers some idea of the natural grandeur of this region about the confluence of the three great mid-continental rivers of America, the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois, and to local residents