

**HEROES OF PROGRESS;
STORIES OF SUCESSFUL
AMERICANS**

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Heroes of progress; stories of successful Americans by Eva March Tappan

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EVA MARCH TAPPAN

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HEROES OF PROGRESS

STORIES OF SUCCESSFUL AMERICANS

BY EVA MARCH TAPPAN, Ph.D.

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"THE FARMER AND HIS FRIENDS," "DIGGERS IN THE EARTH"
"MAKERS OF MANY THINGS," "TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELING"
"OUR EUROPEAN ANCESTORS," "AMERICAN HERO STORIES"
"AN ELEMENTARY HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY," ETC.



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PREFACE

THIS book is planned to give as general a view of recent American achievement as possible without becoming of unwieldy size. Invention, discovery and exploration, art, music, philanthropy, kindness to animals, industrial success, aviation, pure and applied science, are all represented. To select the names of the men and women of achievement has not been easy. Some thirty have been carefully chosen with the aim of introducing those whose work reached its consummation within the last half-century; but in a few instances men have been included whose inventions have been greatly developed in recent years, even though by other hands.

In making the selection a number of "children's librarians" have been consulted, with the wish to include as many as possible of the people about whom children come to them for information. There is seldom difficulty in finding biographies of authors, soldiers, or statesmen. For this reason such names have been omitted from this book.

The qualities which led these men and women to success have been brought well to the front; and while financial rewards have often been mentioned, success is reckoned in value to the world, rather than in money acquired by the individual.

As far as feasible these biographies have been

submitted to some member of the family of each person introduced. For the kindness and helpfulness of these critics I am glad to take this opportunity to express my deep sense of obligation.

In writing these sketches it was necessary, of course, to depend for facts chiefly upon volumes of biography or of letters. To the authors of such volumes and to the editors of the many autobiographies and reminiscences which I have used, I am also sincerely grateful.

EVA MARCH TAPPAN

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HEROES OF PROGRESS

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

LOVER AND STUDENT OF BIRDS

1780-1851

1827-1830, published the *Birds of America*

EARLY in the seventeen-seventies, Commodore Audubon, of the French navy, came to Louisiana on business. He married, then returned to France, where his son John James Audubon was born. Commodore Audubon had bought a plantation on St. Domingo, which soon needed his attention; so the little family sailed for the island. In a slave insurrection the mother perished, but the baby was saved. Father and son went back to France.

The father married a second time, then came to America to join Lafayette and help the colonists to win the Revolutionary War. The child was left in the care of his stepmother, who idolized him. She filled his pockets with money, she bought him the finest clothes, she gave him full permission to buy whatever he chose in all the candy stores of the place, and she often told him that he was the handsomest child in France. As for school, he went when he liked, but when he did not like, he wandered off into the fields and woods.

When the father returned, he found his son's

room full of odd stones, birds' nests, curious lichens, and pressed flowers, and he was pleased; but when he learned that the boy had done nothing but make collections, he marched him off to the place where he himself was stationed, and saw to it that he did some real studying. Nevertheless, the boy loved nature, and especially birds, as much as ever, and somehow he found time to make drawings of some two hundred of the birds of France. "All bad enough," he said afterwards, "yet I felt pleased with them."

While Commodore Audubon was in America, he had bought an estate near Philadelphia; and before many years had passed, he sent his son across the ocean to manage it. The young man had a delightful time with hunting, fishing, drawing, and music. He was strong and handsome and graceful, always dressed with the utmost care, and with such winning, friendly manners that his neighbors were all devoted to him. His rooms were museums of eggs, and paintings, chiefly of birds, for they still held the first place in his interest. He must have been rather a queer manager of an estate, for he was so little of a business man that he once put eight thousand dollars into an envelope and mailed it without remembering to put on a wafer.

It was hardly a wise move for such a man to open a store; but he and his bride of one day and a friend who was to be his partner went through the woods and down the Ohio River to Louisville, Kentucky. There and elsewhere they "kept store"; that is, the