

**THE FAR WEST, OR, A TOUR BEYOND THE  
MOUNTAINS. EMBRACING OUTLINES OF  
WESTERN LIFE AND SCENERY; SKETCHES  
OF THE PRAIRIES, RIVERS, ANCIENT  
MOUNDS, EARLY SETTLEMENTS OF THE  
FRENCH, ETC.; IN TWO VOLUMES, VOL. I**

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The far West, or, A tour beyond the mountains. Embracing outlines of western life and scenery; sketches of the prairies, rivers, ancient mounds, early settlements of the French, etc.; In two volumes, Vol. I by Edmund Flagg

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**EDMUND FLAGG**

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THE PRAIRIES, RIVERS, ANCIENT MOUNDS, EARLY  
SETTLEMENTS OF THE FRENCH, ETC., ETC.

by  
Edmond Eldred, 1815-1890

"If thou be a severe, sour-complexioned man, then I here disallow thee to be a competent judge."—**ISAAC WALTON.**

"I pity the man who can travel from Dan to Beersheba, and cry, 'Tis all barren."—**STERNE.**

"Chacun a son stile; le mien, comme vous voyez, n'est pas laconique."—**MR. DE SEVIGNE.**

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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1838.

500  
M.E.T.

## TO THE READER.

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“ He that writes  
Or makes a feast, more certainly invites  
His judges than his friends ; there's not a guest  
But will find something wanting or ill dress'd.”

IN laying before the majesty of the public a couple of volumes like the present, it has become customary for the author to disclaim in his preface all original design of *perpetrating a book*, as if there were even more than the admitted *quantum* of sinfulness in the act. Whether or not such disavowals now-a-day receive all the credence they merit, is not for the writer to say ; and whether, were the prefatory asseveration, as in the present case, diametrically opposed to what it often is, the reception would be different, is even more difficult to predict. The articles imbodyed in the following volumes were, a portion of them, in their original, hasty production, *designed* for the press ; yet the author unites in the disavowal of his predecessors of all intention at that time of *perpetrating a book*.

In the early summer of '36, when about starting upon a ramble over the prairies of the “ Far West,” in hope of renovating the energies of a shattered constitution, a request was made of the writer, by the distinguished editor of the Louisville Journal, to con-

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tribute to the columns of that periodical whatever, in the course of his pilgrimage, might be deemed of sufficient interest. A series of articles soon after made their appearance in that paper under the title, "*Sketches of a Traveller.*" They were, as their name purports, mere sketches from a traveller's *portfeuille*, hastily thrown upon paper whenever time, place, or opportunity rendered convenient; in the steamboat saloon, the inn bar-room, the log-cabin of the wilderness, or upon the venerable mound of the Western prairie. With such favour were these hasty productions received, and so extensively were they circulated, that the writer, on returning from his pilgrimage to "the shrine of health," was induced, by the solicitations of partial friends, to enter at his leisure upon the preparation for the press of a mass of MSS. of a similar character, written at the time, which had never been published; a thorough revision and enlargement of that which had appeared, united with *this*, it was thought, would furnish a passable volume or two upon the "Far West." Two years of residence in the West have since passed away; and the arrangement for the press of the fugitive sheets of a wanderer's sketch-book would not yet, perhaps, have been deemed of sufficient importance to warrant the necessary labour, had he not been daily reminded that his productions, whatever their merit, were already public property so far as could be the case, and at the mercy of every one who thought proper to assume paternity. "Forbearance ceased to be longer a virtue," and the result is now before the

reader. But, while alluding to that aid which his labours may have rendered to others, the author would not fail fully to acknowledge his own indebtedness to those distinguished writers upon the West who have preceded him. To Peck, Hall, Flint, Wetmore, and to others, his acknowledgments are due and are respectfully tendered.

In extenuation of the circumstance that some portions of these volumes have already appeared, though in a crude state, before the public, the author has but to suggest that many works, with which the present will not presume to compare, have made their debut on the unimposing pages of a periodical. Not to dwell upon the writings of Addison and Johnson, and other classics of British literature, several of Bulwer's most polished productions, the elaborate Essays of Elia, Wirt's British Spy, Hazlitt's Philosophical Reviews, Coleridge's Friend, most of the novels of Captain Marryatt and Theodore Hook, and many of the most elegant works of the day, have been prepared for the pages of a magazine.

And now, with no slight misgiving, does the author commit his firstborn bantling to the tender mercies of an impartial public. Criticism he does not deprecate, still less does he brave it; and farther than either is he from soliciting undue favour. Yet to the *reader*, as he grasps him by the hand in parting, would he commit his book, with the quaint injunction of a distinguished but eccentric old English writer upon an occasion somewhat similar:

"I exhort all people, gentle and simple, men,



women, and children, to buy, to read, to extol these labours of mine. Let them not fear to defend every article; for I will bear them harmless. I have arguments good store, and can easily confute, either logically, theologically, or metaphysically, all those who oppose me."

E. F.

New-York, Oct., 1838.

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