

**THROUGH STORYLAND TO  
SUNSET SEAS: WHAT FOUR  
PEOPLE SAW ON A JOURNEY  
THROUGH THE SOUTHWEST TO  
THE PACIFIC COAST**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649121199

Through storyland to sunset seas: what four people saw on a journey through the Southwest to the Pacific coast by H. S. Kneedler

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**H. S. KNEEDLER**

**THROUGH STORYLAND TO  
SUNSET SEAS: WHAT FOUR  
PEOPLE SAW ON A JOURNEY  
THROUGH THE SOUTHWEST TO  
THE PACIFIC COAST**



THROUGH  
STORYLAND TO SUNSET SEAS

---

WHAT FOUR PEOPLE SAW ON A JOURNEY THROUGH  
THE SOUTHWEST TO THE PACIFIC COAST.

BY  
H. S. KNEEDLER.

---

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

---

CINCINNATI:  
THE A. H. PUGH PRINTING CO.:  
OCTOBER, 1898.

---

COPYRIGHT, 1895, BY H. S. KNEEDLER.

---

THE ANNALS OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

F773

111423

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.—A Parting Look at New Orleans—The River Scene, Quaint Life—The "Sunset Limited"—Off for the Pacific Coast—The Bayou des Allemands and its Traditions—Gibson and the Indian Mounds.....	7
CHAPTER II.—Morgan City and its Peculiar Industries—Fort Star, Oneonta Park and the Baron Natili—Plantation Homes upon the Teche.....	21
CHAPTER III.—The Great Salt Mine of Petit Anse—Its Geology and History—Where Tabasco Sauce is Made—The Islands of the Gulf Coast—The Prairie Home of the Acadians—An Ideal Home.....	27
CHAPTER IV.—New Iberia and St. Martinsville—Ex-Lieutenant Governor Mouton and the Narrative of Early Acadian Occupancy—Glimpses of Life in the Bayou Region in the Early Part of the Century—A Land of Fertile Promise, as the Settler has Discovered.....	37
CHAPTER V.—Traditions of La Fitte, the Pirate of the Gulf, that Adhere to the Region Traversed—Exploits about Lafayette and on the Mermentau and Calcasieu—Digging for Buried Treasure—Playing on Popular Credulity.....	41
CHAPTER VI.—Crowley and Lake Charles—A Life Romance that Runs Back to the French Rebellion in Canada—The Thrifty City that has Grown up where once the Rio Hondo Claims Excited Interest—A Pioneer's Reminiscence—The Sulphur Mine.....	47
CHAPTER VII.—In the Great Pine Districts of Western Louisiana and Eastern Texas—The Original Forests of the Continent—How the Lumber Interests have been Developed—The Emigration of an Industry.....	51
CHAPTER VIII.—From the Texas Border to San Antonio—Sour Lake—Thrifty Towns upon the Way—A Word About the Road You Travel Over—The Busy Commercial Center of Houston—The Colonel Relapses into Statistics.....	55
CHAPTER IX.—San Antonio, the Gem City of the Southwest—Its Ancient Missions—The Alamo—In the Mexican Quarter—The Curio Vender Appears—The Birth of the Opal.....	61
CHAPTER X.—On to Devil's River—The Home of the Mocking Bird—The Land of Promise when Water is Used—The Arid Region of the Continent—Plant Life of the Plains—Sabinal and its Kaoline Deposits—Uvalde—Cline and its New Industry—Spofford, the Junction Point for Mexico.....	69
CHAPTER XI.—Del Rio and the Springs of San Felipe—Fertility of the Soil Demonstrated—A Sulphur Water—Duval West's Hunting Story—Along the Banks of the Rio Grande, with Mexico in Sight—Devil's River—Santa Rosa Mountains—Rarity of the Atmosphere—The Old Stage Routes Across the Plains—The Great Pecos Bridge—A Girl's Intrepidity—The Fortitude of a Mexican Teamster.....	75
CHAPTER XII.—Roy Bean and Langtry—"The Law West of the Pecos"—Anecdotes of an Erratic Jurist in Adapting Law to the Requirements of the Frontier; Divorces People, Fines Dead Men for Carrying Concealed Weapons, and Knows no Law that Makes it a Crime to Kill a Chinaman.....	81
CHAPTER XIII.—The Detectives of the Wilderness—Where Hold Ups used to Occur—Silver Mines—A Woman's Courage and Affection—Down the La Sano Pass—Paisano, the Summit of the Sunset Route, elevation 5,082 feet—Sierra Blanca and the Howard Massacre.....	97

	PAGE
<b>CHAPTER XIV.</b> —El Paso and the Ancient Mexican Town of Ciudad Juarez.—The Thrilling Early Life of the Place—Crossing the Plains when the Apaches were Raiding—The Old Church and its Venerable Priest—The Smelter—Monuments on the National Boundary Line.....	99
<b>CHAPTER XV.</b> —Across New Mexico—The Mirage—Possibilities and Wealth of the Territory—The Climate—Early Court Incident—The Spanish Discoverers—Deming—Through Stein's Pass into Arizona—Cochise's Head upon the Mountain Top—Cacti and its Uses—Benson, the Junction Point for Guaymas and Tombstone—Cieneta River Cañon—Va's and its Bat Caves.....	107
<b>CHAPTER XVI.</b> —Tucson and the Ancient Mission of San Xavier—A City with a Wild Past and Thrifty Present—Warm Valleys where Corn Tassels in a Month—The Imposing Church under the Shadow of the Rincon Mountains—The Indian School—Papago Reservation—Lost Civilizations of Arizona—The Casa Grande Ruins and the Vast Irrigating Canals—Maricopa, the Junction Point for Phoenix—The Painted Rocks of the Gila River—A Gila Monster—Lost Mines—Yuma and its History.....	115
<b>CHAPTER XVII.</b> —First Glimpses of California—The Colorado Desert—Two Hundred and Sixty-three Feet Below Sea Level—Bubbling Mud Volcanoes—Salton and its Great Salt Sea—Nomads of the Desert—Indio, the Vidette of Verdure-clad California—San Geronio Pass—The Snow Peaks of San Jacinto and San Bernardino—Some Figures about California and a Bit of History—The Climate—Redlands—Riverside and San Bernardino—A Veteran Politician.....	129
<b>CHAPTER XVIII.</b> —Los Angeles, its Flower-embowered Homes and Busy Commercial Life—Fremont's Ride to Monterey—Santa Monica and its Surf Bathing—Soldiers' Home and Ostrich Farms—Up the Great Incline Railway to Mt. Lowe—Pasadena—Port Los Angeles—San Pedro and the Fair Island of Santa Catalina—The Growler Feels Badly—An Ocean-hemmed Paradise.....	143
<b>CHAPTER XIX.</b> —Up the Main Line Through the Tehachapi Pass and the San Joaquin Valley to San Francisco—The San Fernando Tunnel—How Banning Drove Over the Line—Saugus, the Junction Point for Santa Barbara—The Soledad Cañon—A Bit of Mojave Desert—Wealth and Extent of the Great San Joaquin Valley—The Wild Flowers—Irrigation Canals and Lumber Furnaces—Berenda and the Yosemite—First Glimpses of the Bays—Looking Out Through the Golden Gate.....	155
<b>CHAPTER XX.</b> —San Francisco—The Story of a Great Capital's Growth Told in Brief—The Golden Gate Park—Buffaloes and Grizzly—Seal Rocks and Suto Heights—A Vision of Far Isles—An Inspection of the Curious Sights and Out-of-the-Way Places of Chinatown—The Stores, Artisans, Street Life, Opium Dens, Underground Dives, Theatre, Joss House and Restaurant—Pen Picture of a Sail About the Bay.....	167
<b>CHAPTER XXI.</b> —On the Way to Portland and the Columbia River via the Shasta Route, with a Long "Side Trip" to Ogden and Salt Lake—The Valley of the Sacramento—Castle Crags, Mossbrae Falls, Soda Springs—The Climb up the Mountain and the Vision of Shasta—Over the Siskiyou into Rogue River Valley—Portland—Across the Sierras—The Snow Sheds—Reno and the Truckee River—Sink of the Humboldt—Indians by the Way—Ogden—Salt Lake and its Sights.....	179
<b>CHAPTER XXII.</b> —Down the Coast Line to Santa Barbara—Stanford University—The Santa Clara Valley—San Jose—Mt. Hamilton and the Lick Observatory—Over the Narrow Gauge to Santa Cruz—The Big Trees and San Lorenzo River Cañon—The City by the Sea—Monterey and the Great Del Monte—Its Wonderful Gardens and Drives—Paso del Robles and its Hot Springs—Over the San Lucia Range to San Luis Obispo—Pacific Coast Railway and Stage Ride—Pismo Beach—Santa Barbara and its Venerable Mission—Along the Surf Line to Saugus—And the Girl says "Yes".....	193



## BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION.

**M**OST of us are egotists—and none more so than he whose pretense makes him a good listener. So all of us profess, in a general way, a knowledge of our own land. Yet few of us really do know any part of it well, and it is akin to vanity to put forth the claim.

Now this modest brochure is the recital of some of those things which one may see and learn on a trip from New Orleans to the Pacific Coast over the lines of the Southern Pacific Company. Every traveler will note points of interest and learn many new facts appealing particularly to him which have been overlooked or ignored here. But when you grow critical, remember that the author was not writing merely for "our set," nor endeavoring to supply an encyclopedia.

All this would be dreadfully dry reading if put in the form of prosaic narrative, so it has been told in dialogue to break the monotony, and the characters introduced have a purpose related to the facts which are sought to be brought out. Nor do the people go to bed at conventional hours, as in most well-regulated books of travel; for if they did, the continuity of the narrative would be broken, and, like the Persian prince who travels on the enchanted carpet, you might miss much of interest while they slept.

The description takes you where the road leads—from the quaint historic city of New Orleans through the bayou region of Louisiana, where summer lingers and poetry is the hand-maiden of romance, across the sugar and rice and cotton country, into the cathedral aisles of the vast pine forests. Then beyond, where the great plains of Texas reach to far-off sky lines, through quaint towns and cities, where foreign speech and manners mingle with our Anglo-Saxon civilization. By the pillared Cañon of the Rio Grande the way leads, and past the sepulchral cleft which the Pecos has worn in the bosom of the earth. On farther yet are the dim blue mountains and cacti-covered, tradition-fraught plains of New Mexico and Arizona; the sand-girdled Gila and the implacable, mysterious Colorado that steadfastly rolls to its union with the California Gulf. Then comes the wonderland of the Pacific Coast—the jeweled, flower-begirt valleys and snow-clad peaks of California; the glint of azure skies and sapphire seas; of vine-clad hills and rose-embowered homes amid encircling groves of olive and of orange. Up the great San Joaquin Valley you go, and down the coast line, with many places of interest on the way to claim attention.

There is a tour of San Francisco, with pen pictures of its points of interest; a suggestion of the beauties to be seen on a run up the valley of the mad Sacramento; close skirting Shasta's rugged sides; the passage of the Siskiyou, down Rogue River Valley to Portland and the majestic Columbia. Then, too, the story takes you eastward beyond the Sierras, by Donner's Lake, the wild Truckee River, the mysterious sink of the Humboldt, and to Ogden and Salt Lake City, lying close by the Dead Sea of America.

The temptation is to be discursive, because there is so much that appeals to one by reason of its novelty and charm. But if the writer had cultivated such microscopic fidelity, this book would have been expanded into many volumes, and you, my reader, would have put the work aside until the prospective leisure of old age afforded opportunity to read it. So, in spite of its shortcomings, the free-hand sketch is better for our uses, and if it shall serve the purpose of inducing you to widen your mental perspective by seeing those things it suggests and describes in the wonderland of our country, it shall have accomplished its purpose. And in that hope it goes forth with its message.

THE AUTHOR.

# THROUGH STORYLAND TO SUNSET SEAS.

## CHAPTER I.

WHEREIN OUR TOURISTS TAKE A PARTING LOOK AT THE CRESCENT CITY  
AND THEN HIE THEM WESTWARD.



STATUE OF GEN. JACKSON IN NEW ORLEANS.

a thousand miles of swift river and placid bayou in the great Valley of the Mississippi; brown-canvased luggers manned by brawny Italians who ply their trade as oyster-men and fishermen upon the gulf, dusky stevedores who, with weird song, lighten their labor and link the traditions of far-off times in African jungles to the melody of to-day's toil as they roll corpulent

THE Girl insisted on going out on the bow of the boat. The Growler said something about the fresh spring breeze from the Gulf and possible twinges of rheumatism, but the Girl poohooed it.

The Colonel struck his umbrella sharply on the deck and said, "Confound it, sir, you're out of the rheumatic latitudes now, sir," and we all went forward to get a last glimpse of the great yellow river, the

ship-lined levees and the encircling city of the crescent. Spire and tower and frowning sugar refineries, implacable grain elevators and smoky oil mills, with their flanking of cotton sheds and blanket-like expanse of roofs beyond, great low-lying steamers and pennant-bedecked ships that made one's thought run to far off seas and conjured up visions of busy spindles in Lowell and Leeds and Manchester, where the fleece of southern fields is woven into snowy fabrics; white river steamers that are the carriers of commerce on many a

They take a  
good-bye look  
at New Orleans

Its exports and  
imports are  
more than  
\$600,000,000  
per  
annum.