SAINT ABE AND HIS SEVEN WIVES: A TALE OF SALT LAKE CITY

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Saint Abe and His Seven Wives: A Tale of Salt Lake City by Robert Williams Buchanan

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ROBERT WILLIAMS BUCHANAN

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A Tale of Salt Lake City

THIRD EDITION



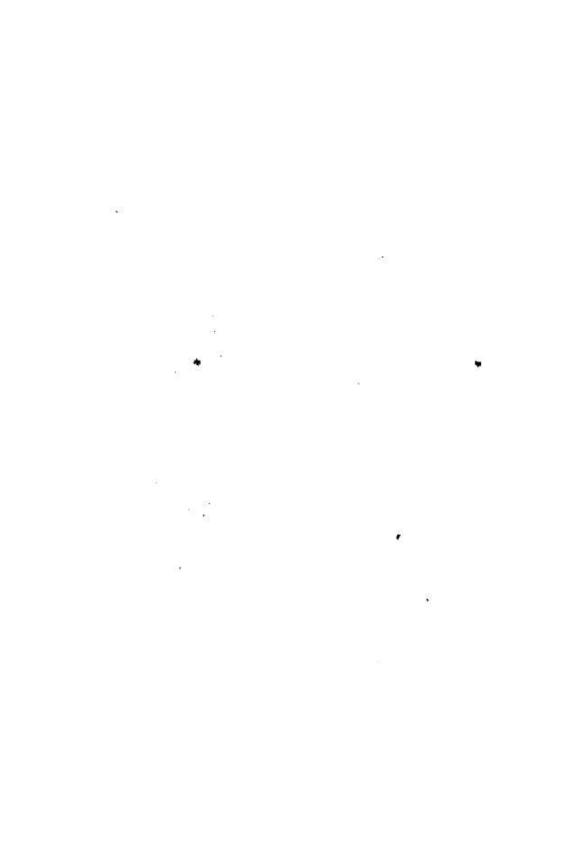


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TO OLD DAN CHAUCER.

Maypole dance and Whitsun ale, Sports of peasants in the dale, Harvest mirth and junketting, Fireside play and kiss-in-ring, Ancient fun and wit and ease,-Gone are one and all of these; All the pleasant pastime planned In the green old Mother-land: Gone are these and gone the time Of the breezy English rhyme, - Sung to make men glad and wise By great Bards with twinkling eyes: Gone the tale and gone the song Sound as nut-brown ale and strong, Freshening the sultry sense Out of idle impotence,

Sowing features dull or bright With deep dimples of delight!

Thro' the Mother-land I went, Seeking these, half indolent: Up and down, I saw them not; Only found them, half-forgot, Buried in long-darken'd nooks With thy barrels of old books, Where the light and love and mirth Of the morning days of earth Sleeps, like light of sunken suns Brooding deep in cob-webb'd tuns ! Everywhere I found instead, Hanging her dejected head, Barbing shafts of bitter wit, The pale Modern Spirit sit-While her shadow, great as Gog's, Cast upon the island fogs, In the midst of all things dim Loom'd, gigantically grim.