

**HISTORICAL TALES:
THE ROMANCE OF
REALITY. AMERICAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649752256

Historical Tales: The Romance of Reality. American by Charles Morris

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

CHARLES MORRIS

**HISTORICAL TALES:
THE ROMANCE OF
REALITY. AMERICAN**



ETHAN ALLEN'S ENTRANCE, TICONDEROGA.

(See page 100.)

^o
HISTORICAL TALES

The Romance of Reality

BY

CHARLES MORRIS

AUTHOR OF "HALF-HOURS WITH THE BEST AMERICAN
AUTHORS," "TALES FROM THE DRAMATISTS," "KING
ARTHUR AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND-TABLE," ETC.

AMERICAN

PHILADELPHIA

J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

1893

PREFACE.

It has become a commonplace remark that fact is often stranger than fiction. It may be said, as a variant of this, that history is often more romantic than romance. The pages of the record of man's doings are frequently illustrated by entertaining and striking incidents, relief points in the dull monotony of every-day events, stories fitted to rouse the reader from languid weariness and stir anew in his veins the pulse of interest in human life. There are many such,—dramas on the stage of history, life scenes that are pictures in action, tales pathetic, stirring, enlivening, full of the element of the unusual, of the stuff the novel and the romance are made of, yet with the advantage of being actual fact. Incidents of this kind have proved as attractive to writers as to readers. They have dwelt upon them lovingly, embellished them with the charms of rhetoric and occasionally with the inventions of fancy, until what began as fact has often entered far into the domains of legend and fiction. It may well be

that some of the narratives in the present work have gone through this process. If so, it is simply indicative of the interest they have awakened in generations of readers and writers. But the bulk of them are fact, so far as history in general can be called fact, it having been our design to cull from the annals of the nations some of their more stirring and romantic incidents, and present them as a gallery of pictures that might serve to adorn the entrance to the temple of history, of which this work is offered as in some sense an illuminated ante-chamber. As such, it is hoped that some pilgrims from the world of readers may find it a pleasant halting-place on their way into the far-extending aisles of the great temple beyond.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
VINELAND AND THE VIKINGS	9
FROBISHER AND THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE	26
CHAMPLAIN AND THE IROQUOIS	34
SIR WILLIAM PHIPS AND THE SILVER-SHIP	52
THE STORY OF THE REGICIDES	68
HOW THE CHARTER WAS SAVED	79
HOW FRANKLIN CAME TO PHILADELPHIA	89
THE PERILS OF THE WILDERNESS	97
SOME ADVENTURES OF MAJOR PUTNAM	110
A GALLANT DEFENCE	127
DANIEL BOONE, THE PIONEER OF KENTUCKY	137
PAUL REVERE'S RIDE	155
THE GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS	169
THE BRITISH AT NEW YORK	177
A QUAKERESS PATRIOT	186
THE SIEGE OF FORT SCHUYLER	192
ON THE TRACK OF A TRAITOR	208
MARION, THE SWAMP-FOX	220
THE FATE OF THE PHILADELPHIA	233
THE VICTIM OF A TRAITOR	245
HOW THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH WAS INVENTED	255
THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMAC	270
STEALING A LOCOMOTIVE	279
AN ESCAPE FROM LIBBY PRISON	292
THE SINKING OF THE ALBEMARLE	307

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

AMERICAN.

	PAGE
ETHAN ALLEN'S ENTRANCE, TICONDEROGA (<i>Frontispiece</i>).	
LAKE CHAMPLAIN AND ITS SURROUNDINGS	41
POND ISLAND, MOUTH OF THE KENNEBEC	58
THE CAVE OF THE REGICIDES	75
THE CHARTER OAK, HARTFORD	84
WASHINGTON'S HOME AT MOUNT VERNON	97
SHORE OF LAKE GEORGE	117
THE OLD NORTH CHURCH, BOSTON	156
THE OLD STATE HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA	189
THE BENEDICT ARNOLD MANSION	217
THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMAC	275
LIBBY PRISON, RICHMOND	298

VINELAND AND THE VIKINGS.

THE year 1000 A.D. was one of strange history. Its advent threw the people of Europe into a state of mortal terror. Ten centuries had passed since the birth of Christ. The world was about to come to an end. Such was the general belief. How it was to reach its end,—whether by fire, water, or some other agent of ruin,—the prophets of disaster did not say, nor did people trouble themselves to learn. Destruction was coming upon them, that was enough to know; how to provide against it was the one thing to be considered.

Some hastened to the churches; others to the taverns. Here prayers went up; there wine went down. The petitions of the pious were matched by the ribaldry of the profligate. Some made their wills; others wasted their wealth in revelry, eager to get all the pleasure out of life that remained for them. Many freely gave away their property, hoping, by ridding themselves of the goods of this earth, to establish a claim to the goods of Heaven, with little regard to the fate of those whom they loaded with their discarded wealth.

It was an era of ignorance and superstition. Christendom went insane over an idea. When the