STORIES OF THE WEST

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Stories of the West by Theodore Roosevelt

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT

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Theodore Roosevella

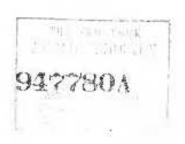
STORIES OF THE GREAT WEST

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Illustrated



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PUBLISHERS' NOTE

As a youth Theodore Roosevelt was an enthusiastic student of Western history and pioneer types. Later, as ranchman and hunter, he grew to know intimately and to love deeply the rough, free life of the Western plains. Mr. Roosevelt's interest in history probably was inherited, but his fondness for outdoor life grew out of his grateful love for his foster mother—the green earth—who took the delicate youth in her rough, but kindly, embrace and gave him a sound body and a clear vision.

It was during the quiet evenings, and the otherwise idle hours, spent at "Elkhorn," his Dakota ranch, that Theodore Roosevelt penned most of the fascinating pictures of frontier and ranch life that make up this present volume.

"The Backwoodsmen of the Alleghanies" and "Lewis and Clark and the Exploration of the Far West" are from "The Winning of the West," permission to republish here having kindly been granted by G. P. Putnam's Sons. The other stories are from "Hero Tales" and "Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail." Some of these stories have been condensed from the original version for reasons of space.

THE FORELOPER

The gull shall whistle in his wake, the blind wave break in fire, He shall fulfil God's utmost will, unknowing his desire; And he shall see old planets pass and alien stars arise, And give the gale his reckless sail in shadow of new skies, Strong last of gear shall drive him out and hunger arm his hand To wring his food from a desert nude, his foothold from the sand. His neighbors' smoke shall vex his eyes, their voices break his rest; He shall go forth till South is North, sullen and dispossessed; He shall desire loneliness, and his desire shall bring. Hard on his heels a thousand wheels, a people and a king. He shall come back on his own track and by his scarce cool camp, There shall he meet the roaring street, the derrick, and the stamp; For he must blaze a nation's ways, with hatchet and with brand, Till on his last-won wilderness an empire's bulwarks stand.

Kipling.

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