

**THE INDIAN  
CAPTIVITY OF  
O.M. SPENCER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649185306

The Indian captivity of O.M. Spencer by Milo Milton Quaife

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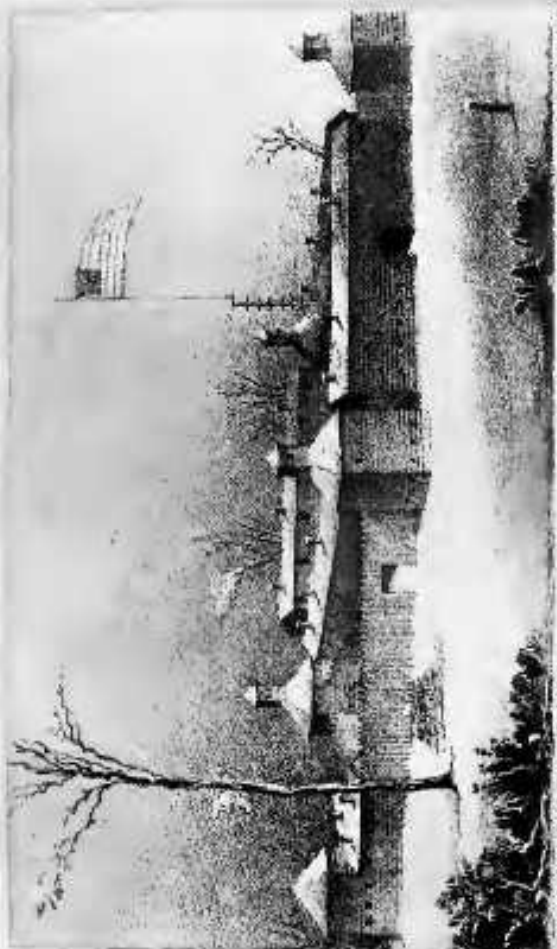
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**MILO MILTON QUAIFE**

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CAPTIVITY OF  
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*The Indian Captivity*  
*of O. M. Spencer*



FORT WASHINGTON

Engraved by J. B. Schmitt, 1854

Published by J. B. Schmitt, 1854

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S7456i

(The Lakeside Classics)

# *The Indian Captivity of O. M. Spencer*

EDITED BY

MILO MILTON QUAIFFE

*Superintendent of  
The State Historical Society of Wisconsin*

*With Frontispiece and Map*



321276  
19. 11. 35

The Lakeside Press, Chicago  
R. R. DONNELLEY & SONS COMPANY  
CHRISTMAS, MCMXVII

## Publishers' Preface

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THE series of The Lakeside Classics, of which this is the fifteenth volume, occupies an unique position in the history of publishing. The original purpose of publication can best be expressed by quoting the following extract from the introduction of the first volume, a reprint of "The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin."

"This little volume goes forth as a modest protest against the present craze for so-called 'editions de luxe'—books printed in unreadable type on hand-made paper, on hand presses, and sold at prices prohibitory to all except the rich. . . . In opposition, this volume stands for the machine-made book. Its paper, its typesetting, its presswork, and its binding are all products of the very latest labor-saving machinery. It aims to be readable rather than eccentric; plain rather than decorative; tasteful rather than unique; useful rather than useless; withal to hold to the essence of the art of the old masters of book-making, and not to copy the mechanical shortcomings which they, themselves, strove so hard to overcome."

This book was not for sale, but was distributed gratuitously among the friends and



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patrons of The Lakeside Press. By chance, the "Franklin" was ready for distribution about the Christmas season, and it was made the bearer of the Christmas good wishes of The Press. The Publishers did not plan to establish a sustained series issued annually, but thought that they would occasionally add to the series as a book or manuscript of unusual interest, and not readily obtainable by the public, presented itself.

But the first volume was received so enthusiastically that it was followed by another the next Christmas, and thus was established the custom of the Publishers sending to their friends and patrons their Yuletide felicitations each season in the form of a volume of The Lakeside Classics.

With the fifth volume, the original purpose of the series was somewhat changed, as the books ceased to be entirely a machine product. In that year was established at The Lakeside Press an apprenticeship school and a comprehensive system of training the future workmen of The Press. The typesetting of the volume for that year was done in the School by boys in the first few months of their training, and the typesetting of all subsequent volumes has been the work of the younger apprentices. As the scope of the School widened, the press-work and binding also were produced by the older boys, so that for several years the volume has been completely the product of the

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apprentices. The fact that the workmanship of these little books has maintained the high standard of The Press may be regarded as testimony to the ideals and accomplishment of the School.

The School for Apprentices of The Lakeside Press is a pioneer in vocational education in the printing industry and has obtained an international reputation. Boys are apprenticed as they graduate from grammar school; the first two years they spend half their time in the schoolroom and half in the factory. The school work includes academic as well as trade instruction. The following five years they work full time in the factory, with the exception of four hours a week during which they continue to receive academic and trade instruction in the School. Three classes have now finished their full apprenticeship, and as this volume goes to press there are more than fifty graduates, all of whom are workmen of more than usual skill and efficiency, throughout the various departments.

It has been the aim of the Publishers to choose for these volumes material which is distinctly American. With the publication of the *Autobiography of Gurdon S. Hubbard* was started a series of memoirs and sketches covering the history of Chicago, from the days of the trading post down to the Chicago Fire of 1871; and so popular have been these historical notes that with last year's volume

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the field was extended to include the early history of the contiguous Northwest.

This year's volume is one of the many accounts written by early settlers who were taken and held in captivity by the Indians during the first half of the last century. Unfortunately, most of these accounts were written by persons of little education and no literary ability and make poor reading. But Mr. Spencer, the author of this volume, became a Methodist minister and later the editor of a religious weekly, and was thus able to bring a developed ability in writing to the telling of his boyhood experiences. While this narrative has the old-fashioned and rather delightful Sunday-school flavor of his profession and his time, it is told in a straightforward and honest fashion, and conveys to the reader a much truer picture of the habits and character of the Indians of Ohio than many other more imaginative and bloodcurdling tales.

The Publishers are again under obligation to Dr. Milo Milton Quaife for discovering the subject matter and for editing it. With this little volume again come the Christmas Good Wishes of

THE PUBLISHERS.