

**RED HEAD**

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Red Head by John Uri Lloyd

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By JOHN URI LLOYD

Author of "STRINGTOWN ON THE PIRE,"  
"WARWICK OF THE KNOBS," etc.

ILLUSTRATIONS AND DECORATIONS BY  
REGINALD B. BIRCH



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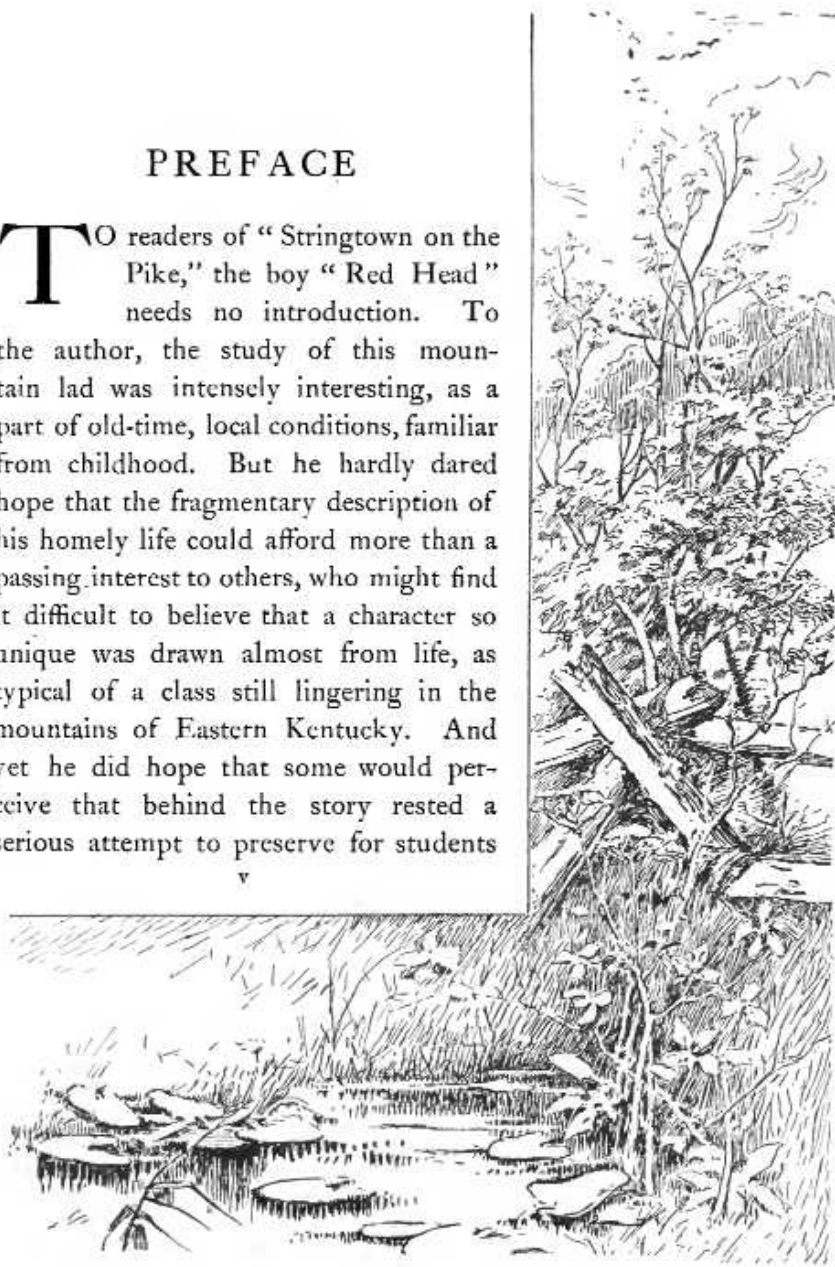
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## PREFACE

**T**O readers of "Stringtown on the Pike," the boy "Red Head" needs no introduction. To the author, the study of this mountain lad was intensely interesting, as a part of old-time, local conditions, familiar from childhood. But he hardly dared hope that the fragmentary description of his homely life could afford more than a passing interest to others, who might find it difficult to believe that a character so unique was drawn almost from life, as typical of a class still lingering in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. And yet he did hope that some would perceive that behind the story rested a serious attempt to preserve for students

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of Americana some bit of that primitive color which, so far as its lawlessness is concerned, it is to be hoped, is destined ere long to fade away.

As a pleasant surprise came, then, many cordial letters of inquiry for further information regarding this little understood people, and many appeals for the whole story of "Red Head," apart from the setting in which he was formerly placed. As a result of these letters and inquiries has come the evolution of the present volume.

In order to bring the reader into sympathetic touch with the conditions surrounding "Red Head," of which he was a part by heritage, as well as by training in traditions held sacred by his people, it was found necessary to place the events narrated in Part I, in a time long preceding that of "Red Head" himself. For so strange is the code still main-



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tained in its lurid integrity by some persons in the land of his birth, that only by a comprehension of its ideals and responsibilities, as accepted by them, and which made "Red Head" what he was, can one properly understand this lonely mountain boy. Inured to dangers and deeds of violence, and hunted like a wild animal from his tenderest years, he came at last to be the sole survivor of his faction, on whom alone it devolved to maintain their honor, in the only way recognized by them.

For one familiar with life such as this, it would have been an easy matter to fill these pages with the scenes of cruelty and vengeance that shadow the feudist's way. More difficult it was, but the author hopes more useful, and not less interesting, to portray the home life of this misguided people in such a way as to give touches, by inference alone, of

