

**LIFE OF GENERAL  
HOUSTON,  
1793-1863**

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Life of General Houston, 1793-1863 by Henry Bruce

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**HENRY BRUCE**

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Sam Houston

"MAKERS OF AMERICA"

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L I F E  
OF  
GENERAL HOUSTON

1793-1863

BY  
HENRY BRUCE

How necessary it is to be successful!  
*Kossuth at the Tomb of Washington*



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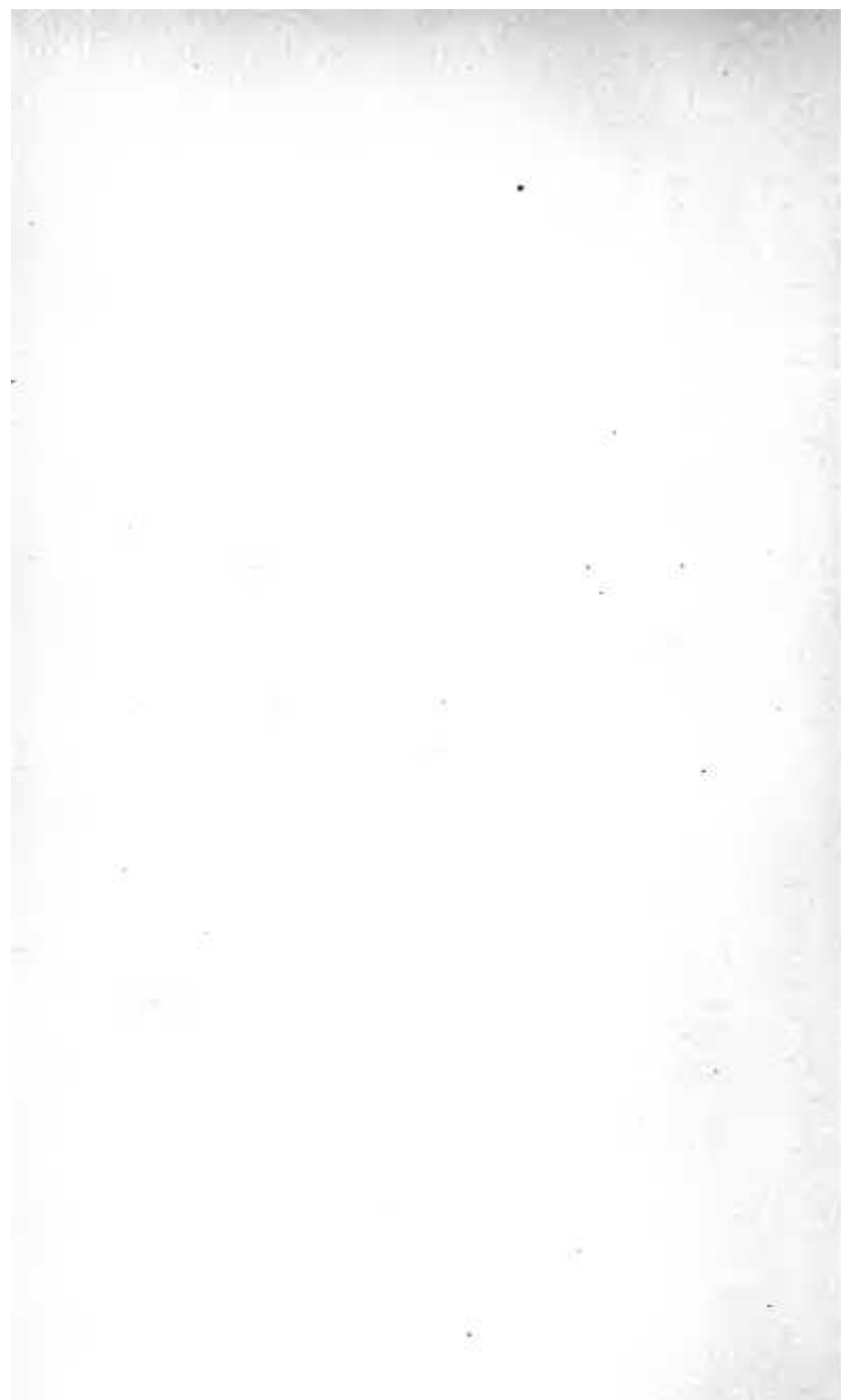
Louise Chandler Moulton

*THIS VOLUME*

IS GRATEFULLY AND ADMIRINGLY INSCRIBED.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE true secret of wearying one's reader, says Voltaire, is to try to tell him everything. In other words, an exhaustive book is sure to be exhausting. While keeping this fact clearly in mind, I have tried to embody most of the interesting incidents that can now be recovered in regard to the independence of Texas, and the career of that foremost Texan of whom it has been said that his life was as romantic as that of Harold Hardrada, and far more important in its results.

I do not think that in all my previous years I have read the amount of bad literature that I have been obliged to go through in the preparation of this volume. The Texans could fight like heroes; but they do not seem to have imagined for an instant that the pen was mightier than the sword. No Life of Houston has hitherto been published which is not either imbecile or occasionally dishonest. If there be anything of justifying value in my story of Houston and of Texas, I have certainly plucked it up, like "drowned honour by the locks," from the bottom of the unfathomed deep.

Among the few good books on this subject it is a relief to be able to mention Mr. Parton's valuable *Life of Andrew Jackson*, his invaluable and perfect *Life of Aaron Burr*, and the fitting portions of Mr. H. H. Bancroft's *History of the Pacific States of North America*. The two *Histories of Texas*, by William Kennedy and by Colonel Henderson Yoakum, though far from good, are sufficiently valuable to require mention.

I was unable or unwilling to undertake the six-months' journeying through Tennessee and Texas, which would have constituted the ideal preliminary to a *Life of Houston*; but I have done the next best thing in coming here to avail myself of the unmatched resources and courtesies of the British Museum. I have to express my grateful obligations to my most honoured friend and master, Mr. James Parton; to Mrs. Maggie Houston Williams, Colonel A. J. Houston, and Mr. W. R. Houston, children of General Houston; and to Mrs. Amelia E. Barr, Mr. F. D. Barker, Dr. Nathan Oppenheim, and Colonel T. W. Higginson.

For the Index I shall be indebted to my tried friend, Dr. John Milton Gitterman, the first Ph.D. of the Harvard class of '88, and the author of a fascinating and well-known volume, in German, on Ezzelin of Romano.

HENRY BRUCE.

LONDON, December 11, 1890.