

**FAMOUS CHARACTERS
OF HISTORY. DARIUS
THE GREAT. VOL. IV**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649581436

Famous Characters of History. Darius the Great. Vol. IV by Jacob Abbott

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JACOB ABBOTT

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Famous Characters of History

DARIUS
THE GREAT

BY
JACOB ABBOTT



VOLUME IV.



ILLUSTRATED

1906

THE ST. HUBERT GUILD

NEW YORK

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PREFACE

DARIUS was the organizer of the great empire loosely gathered together by the conquests of Cyrus and Cambyses. Diligently he labored, building cities, constructing roads, reforming taxation, improving the coinage, even establishing a postal system. To industry and commerce he was so attentive that his shortsighted contemporaries dubbed him "the Huckster." A singularly modern man was he, twenty-four hundred years ago—a pathetic figure, too, for, little as he realized it, he belonged to an age outworn, and beside him, small and despised as yet, was growing up a people belonging to a newer order of things, and destined to smash to fragments the empire he so toilsomely up-built.

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