THE TRAPPER'S BRIDE; A TALE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. WITH THE ROSE OF OUISCONSIN. INDIAN TALES

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by Percy B. St. John

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PERCY B. ST. JOHN

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INDIAN TALES.

BY

PERCY B. ST. JOHN.

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TO W. HARRISON AINSWORTH, ESQ.

My dear Sir,

A very sincere admiration of your genius, which has so delightfully enriched the body of modern literature, and a sense of your kindness in bringing my name before the public as a contributor to that able Magazine which has enabled you to foster many a young author, induces me to offer you this my first separate original effort.

That you may long continue to delight not only your countrymen, but our Transatlantic brethren, and those who enjoy your productions in various European languages, with a constant flow of rich romance, is the sincere desire of

Yours ever faithfully,

PERCY B. ST. JOHN.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The American Indians have always been a subject of deep interest to the author of this little volume. A residence in the wilds of America, in the back woods of Texas, and much study, have rendered him familiar with the scenes and habits which he has endeavoured to illustrate. The approbation bestowed upon certain Indian Tales and Sketches which have lately appeared in various periodicals* has led to the present more serious effort. Should it be received with any favour, the author will endeavour at a future period to bring before his readers sketches, scenes, and tales, illustrative of other phases in American life; life in Texas, among the wild Comanches, among the Mandans, the Sioux, the Seminoles, and other famous tribes of the New World.

* In Ainsworth's Magazine, in Bentley's Miscellany, the United Service Magazine; in Chambers's Edinburgh Journal, and other quarters.

THE TRAPPER'S BRIDE.

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CHAPTER I.

FORT BENT.

Few instances exist on record of industry so indefatigable in the pursuit of gain, amid dangers and difficulties, as that offered by the American trappers and gentlemen traders who, in the Great Prairie wilderness, in the Rocky Mountains, on the arid plains of Oregon, amid the perils of the Santa Fè caravan-trade, and all the various outlying posts of the vast interior, pursue a commerce which, characterised by features romantic and striking, must ever be viewed with feelings of interest and curiosity.

Thousands of hardy men, abandoning for ever