

**WITH THACKERAY
IN AMERICA**

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With Thackeray in America by Eyre Crowe

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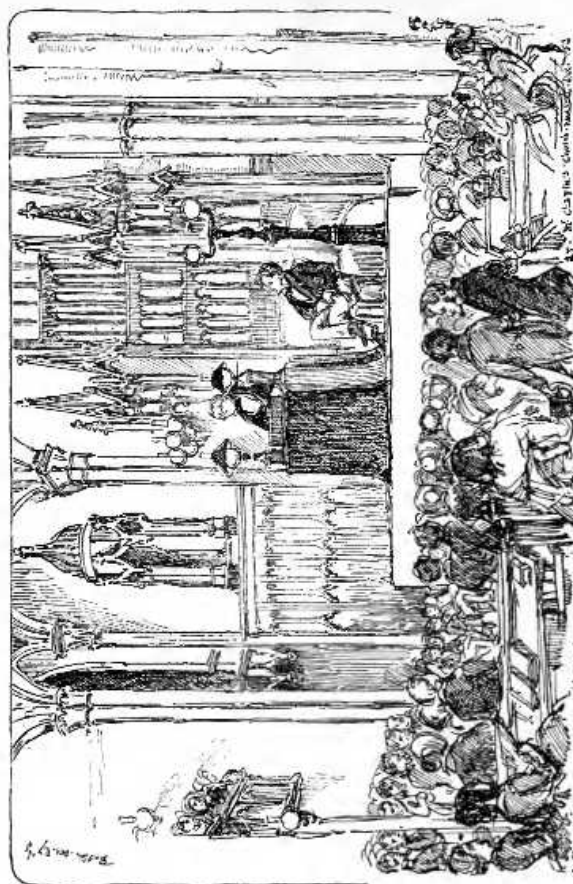
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EYRE CROWE

**WITH THACKERAY
IN AMERICA**



THACKERAY LECTURING AT NEW YORK.

WITH THACKERAY
IN AMERICA

BY

EYRE CROWE A.R.A.

CASELL AND COMPANY LIMITED

LONDON PARIS & MELBOURNE

1893

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THIS BOOK
DUE TO SIX MONTHS' CONSTANT TRAVEL WITH
HER FATHER
IS WITH HER KIND PERMISSION DEDICATED TO
MRS. RICHMOND RITCHIE
AS A TRIBUTE OF ADMIRATION FOR HER INHERITED
LITERARY GIFTS AND FOR THE SAKE OF
A LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIP

EYRE CROWE

London
20th February 1833

P R E F A C E.

ALL readers of Thackeray know his delightful imaginary conversation-verses between "The Pen and the Album," written before his travels in the United States, and the concluding lines:—

"Stranger! I never writ a flattery,
Nor sign'd the page that register'd a lie."

"The faithful old Gold Pen," to which he assigns these two noble qualifications of unswerving truthfulness, and which he then adds had served him already for three long years in making his sketches, was part of his equipment of materials taken to the States. When it was not in his own grasp he allowed me to take it up for my sketching lucubrations, which were for the most part executed with its wondrously flexible and seemingly indestructible nib. He was so far pleased with my efforts that, not content with showing them to our American friends, who also nodded approvingly over their sometimes grotesque yet faithful renderings of every-day scenes as they struck a newcomer's fancy, he urged me to make a selection from them, and to forward them to London for publication in an illustrated periodical. Whether they ever reached their destination I forgot to ascertain on my return. This neglect on my part I now lament, as among the drawings was one of the Washington House of Representatives, with a portrayal of the different members sitting at their semi-circularly-

placed desks, fronting the Presidential Chair, over which soared majestically the American eagle. This loss must be my apology for omitting from this collection any representation of the holders of the great political helm of the States. Perhaps the chance owner may hereafter let me know of its whereabouts, and in case of future editions, if any, kindly allow me to repair the gap.

Whilst contrasting the scenes delineated forty years ago with subsequent accounts which have reached us in numberless books of travel, not to mention the useful successive "Appleton Guide" editions, I have been struck with the appositeness of Carlyle's epithet applied to progressive Columbia, as "the never-resting locomotive country." What was then fact may now seem to border on fiction. But, for my own part, I trust that this may be accepted as a record of actual life imbued with the subtle spirit of truth flowing from "the faithful old Gold Pen," and not belying the honest character ascribed to it by the owner.

I may take this opportunity of here thanking my kind friend Mr. Wemyss Reid, who encouraged me to publish these sketches and their accompanying text.

The *Illustrated London News* printed a very few of the illustrations in the old familiar wood-cut manner, now superseded for the most part by other facsimile processes, justifying their re-insertion here. *Household Words* also published my account of the Virginian slave sale, which has now been amplified with incidents there omitted for the sake of brevity.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
"Esmond"—Lectures at Liverpool and Manchester—Savile Morton—Voyage across the Atlantic—Boston—Custom House—Shandrydan—Treatment—A Rapid Repast—Bunker's Hill—MM, Prescott and Ticknor—In the Cars—"Thackeray's Works"—Arrival in New York—Mr. Bancroft—Spirit-Rapping—The Rev. Theodore Parker and Horace Greeley	1

CHAPTER II.

The Rev. Mr. Chapin's Chapel—Lectures—Brooklyn—American Art—Leah—Wall Street—Barnum—Genius—James Harper and Appleton—G. P. R. James—Boston Museum—William Allston—"Coasting"—Stuart's Portrait of General Washington—New York Once More—A Claimant—Washington Irving—T. F. Meagher—Sleighting—Governor's Island—New Jersey—Non-Abstainers	45
---	----

CHAPTER III.

Philadelphia—A Quaker's Meeting—Negro Disability—An Historical Porch—W. B. Read—Washington—Lecture on "Humour and Charity" at New York—Washington and Baltimore—Presidential Levée—The Eriesson—The Iron Jackson—Congress	101
---	-----

CHAPTER IV.

Richmond, Va.—A Slave Sale—Houdon's Statue of Washington—Petersburg, Va.—Charleston—An Empty Valise—Savannah—New York Once More	125
---	-----

CHAPTER V.

New York to Albany—The Senate—Lecturing—New York—"Lucy's Birthday"—Farewell to the States—The <i>Europa</i> —Liverpool—Paris—Champs Elysées and the Latin Quarter	168
---	-----

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	PAGE
Thackeray Lecturing in New York	1
The Emblem of Office	14
On Board the <i>Canada</i>	15
The Captain taking an Observation	16
Officer taking an Observation	16
A Passenger	17
The Deep Sea Lead	19
Our Conveyance	22
Young America	22
" <i>Erauld and Tribune</i> "	23
The "Poet Bunn"	25
Madame Sontag	27
On the Commercial Wharf, Boston	28
At the "Tremont"	29
Boston from Bunker's Hill	30
William Hickling Prescott	31
George Ticknor	32
Expectarooms	33
A Splashy Bed	34
"Thackeray's Works, Sir!"	36
A Group of Children	37
In the Accommodation Train	38
Mr. Bancroft	39
Mr. Bancroft's Lecture	40
Table-Turning	41
The Rev. Theodore Parker at the Tabernacle, New York	42
Horace Greeley	44
Tailpiece	45
The Rev. H. Bellows	49
President Fillmore	50
New York, from Brooklyn	52
Black Coachmen	53
Lafarge Hotel	54
The Brushing Process	55
The Broadway	