

**ARNE**

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Arne by Björnstjerne Björnson & Rasmus B. Anderson

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**BJÖRNSTJERNE BJÖRNSSON & RASMUS B. ANDERSON**

# **ARNE**



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# ARNE.

BY  
BJÖRNSTJERNE BJÖRNSSON.

TRANSLATED FROM THE NORSE

BY

RASMUS B. ANDERSON,

AUTHOR OF "NORSE MYTHOLOGY," "VIKING TALES OF THE NORTH,"  
"AMERICA NOT DISCOVERED BY COLUMBUS," AND OTHER WORKS.

*AUTHOR'S EDITION.*



BOSTON:  
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY.  
The Riverside Press, Cambridge.  
1881.

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE.

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THE present edition of Björnstjerne Björnson's works is published by special arrangement with the author. Mr. Björnson has designated Prof. Rasmus B. Anderson as his American translator, coöperates with him, and revises each work before it is translated, thus giving his personal attention to this edition.

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## PREFACE.

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"ARNE" was written in 1858, one year later than "Synnöve Solbakken," and is thought by many to be Björnson's best story, though it is, in my opinion, surpassed in simplicity of style and delicate analysis of motives, feelings, and character by "A Happy Boy," his third long story, the translation of which is now in progress, and which will follow this volume.

Norway's most eminent composers have written music for many of Björnson's poems, and made them favorite songs, not only with the cultivated classes, but also with the common people. To the songs in "Arne" melodies were composed by Björnson's brilliant cousin, Rikard Nordraak, who died in 1865, only twenty-three years old, but who had already won a place as one of Norway's greatest composers.

With a view of popularizing these melodies in this country, all the poems have been given in precisely the same metre and rhyme as the original, and those caring to know how the tunes are supposed to have sounded on the lips of Arne are referred to "The Norway Music Album," edited by Auber Forestier and myself, and published by Oliver Ditson & Co. of



Boston. In it will be found, together with the original and English words, Rikard Nordraak's music to the following five songs from "Arne":—

1. "Oh, my pet lamb, lift your head," from chapter v.

2. "It was such a pleasant, sunny day," from chapter viii.

3. "The tree's early leaf-buds were bursting their brown," from chapter xii.

4. "Oh how I wonder what I should see

Over the lofty mountains,"<sup>1</sup> from chapter xiv.

5. "He went in the forest the whole day long," from chapter xiv.

Mr. Björnson returned to Norway in May, 1881; he was welcomed with enthusiasm, and on the 17th of the same month, Norway's natal day, he delivered the oration at the dedication of the Wergeland Monument to a gathering of more than ten thousand people. His visit to America was a brilliant success. His addresses to his countrymen in America were chiefly on the constitutional struggle of Norway, on which subject an article by him will be found in the February (1881) issue of "Scribner's Monthly." As a souvenir of his pleasant sojourn among us, I will here attempt an English translation of the poem "Olaf Trygvason" with which he usually greeted his hearers at his lectures. It is one of his most popular songs.

<sup>1</sup> To this there will also be found in the Album a melody by Halfdan Kjernli.

Spreading sails o'er the North Sea speed;  
 High on deck stands at dawn, indeed,  
 Erling Skjalgson from Sole.  
 Spying o'er the sea towards Denmark:  
 "Wherefore comes not Olaf Trygvason?"

Six and fifty the dragons are;  
 Sails are furled . . . . toward Denmark stare  
 Sun-scorched men . . . . then rises:  
 "Where stays the King's Long Serpent?  
 Wherefore comes not Olaf Trygvason?"

But when sun on the second day  
 Saw the watery, mastless way,  
 Like a great storm it sounded:  
 "Where stays the King's Long Serpent?  
 Wherefore comes not Olaf Trygvason?"

Quiet, quiet, in that same hour  
 Stood they all; for with endless power,  
 Groaning, the sea was splashing:  
 "Taken the King's Long Serpent!  
 Fallen is Olaf Trygvason!"

Thus for more than an hundred years  
 Sounds in every seaman's ears,  
 Chiefly in moon-lit watches:  
 "Taken the King's Long Serpent!  
 Fallen is Olaf Trygvason!"

The reader will not fail to be reminded by this song by Björnson of Longfellow's "Saga of King Olaf" (the Musician's Tale), in his "Tales of a Wayside Inn," and especially of those beautiful poems in this collection, "The Building of the Long Serpent," and "The Crew of the Long Serpent."

Hoping the translation of these stories and songs

will enable the reader to appreciate in some degree the secret of Björnson's great popularity in the fair land that lies beneath the eternal snow and the unsetting sun, I now offer "Arne" to the American public.

RASMUS B. ANDERSON.

ASGARD, MADISON, WIS.,  
August, 1881.