

# **THE VETERAN AND HIS PIPE**

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The veteran and his pipe by Albion W. Tourgee

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**ALBION W. TOURGEE**

**THE VETERAN  
AND HIS PIPE**



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AND HIS PIPE

BY

ALBION W. TOURGEE

*Author of "A Fool's Errand," Etc.*

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## PREFACE.

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### COMRADE:

If you have succeeded in forgetting the impulse that made you, for a time at least, a hero, and regarding your wounds as "poor dumb mouths" that testify of personal peril, rather than the immortal cause in which they were won, you can hardly feel surprise that the veteran is remembered chiefly as a pensioner; heroism regarded only as a claim to public charity, and "the soldier vote" considered a political commodity, to be purchased with the promise of public plunder.

THE AUTHOR.

APRIL 14, 1886.

## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

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The demand for a second edition of this work allows no time for the correction of mere verbal errors. The essays herein contained were written week by week during the year 1885, their character being determined by contemporaneous events. In a cursory review the author finds no reason to desire any substantial change. The convictions expressed in these pages have only been emphasized by subsequent events. Pascal Raines and Rans Whiting are types of the healthiest sentiment of the two great elements of yesterday. The sacrifice and heroism of the days of strife will have been worse than vain unless they shall teach wisdom, devotion to the right, an exalted sense of patriotic duty, and a righteous scorn of subterfuge, evasion and pretense in the direction of public affairs.

Whatever may be the truth in regard to material things, civilization is undoubtedly a revolution. Liberty is a plant whose petals open very slowly and whose perfect bloom the world has not yet seen. God gives us yesterday that we may make to-morrow better. The soldier who fought for "Freedom and the Right" did only his duty. He deserves no more credit than he who serves the country with like aspiration to-day. It is as an example of patriotic devotion, and *not* as a mere survivor of perilous times, that he deserves to be remembered. *What he did* may very well be forgotten. *Why he did it* is the priceless legacy he left for the betterment of to-morrow. Whenever the present fails to rise to the level of the past in patriotic aspiration, the future is in peril. Civil war in a republic is always the result of a lesson of patriotic purpose. The patriotism which saved the Union, if manifested before the outbreak of hostilities, would have made rebellion impossible. The apathy and indecision of the North, not less than the arrogance and aggressiveness of the South, were responsible for the bloody consequences. This is the lesson the story of yesterday's achievements should teach to every one of the controllers of to-morrow's destiny. The pages that follow were written simply to enforce this thought.

THE AUTHOR.

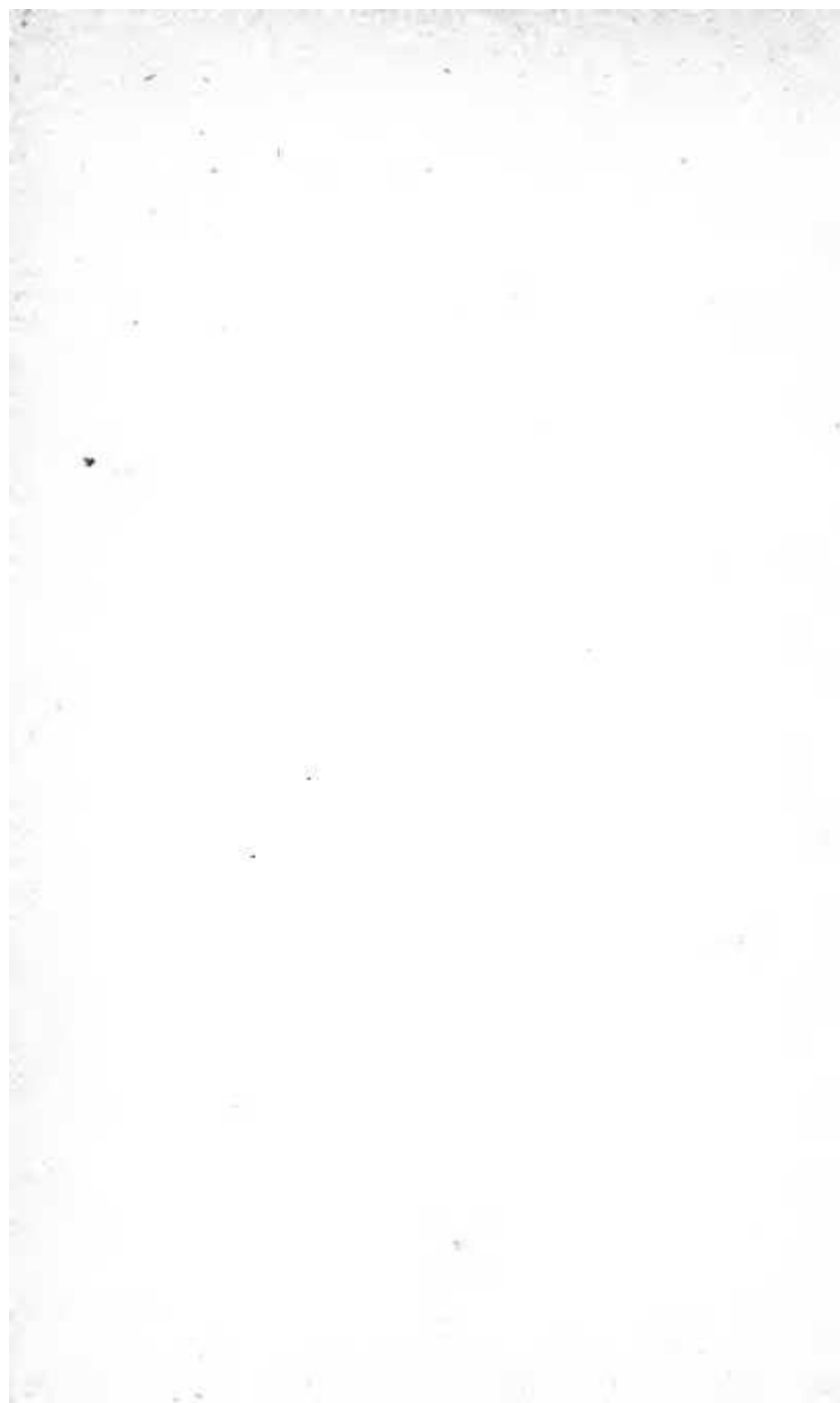
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## A DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY.

APRIL 14, 1861—THE SURRENDER OF FORT SUMTER—  
APRIL 14, 1865—THE ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM  
LINCOLN.

IT is a strangely eventful day, Blower,—the anniversary of death and life. Many, perhaps the great majority of those who think to note its recurrence, count it perchance the saddest of all those land-marks by which our national growth is marked, or individual achievement commemorated. But we will celebrate it, Blower, as a feast of thanksgiving and a festival of rejoicing. Twenty-four years ago to-day the nation awoke to the new life of its most glorious epoch. The blow had fallen on the evening of the previous day. At midnight tolling bells began its proclamation to a wondering people. With the dawning came fuller knowledge of the thing we feared. The echoes of the guns of Moultrie were yet sounding the knell of peace over our broad land. The sunshine of the sabbath morning looked down on strangely contrasted scenes. The South was hoarse with exultant shouting. The emblems of rejoicing floated there from every hilltop.