

THE HERITAGE OF TYRE

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The heritage of Tyre by William Brown Meloney

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WILLIAM BROWN MELONEY

**THE HERITAGE
OF TYRE**

OUR NATIONAL PROBLEMS

THE HERITAGE OF TYRE



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BY

WILLIAM BROWN MELONEY

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Dedication

To the memory of John Willis Griffiths, whose genius revolutionized the science of merchant shipbuilding and naval architecture and enthroned the United States as Mistress of the Seas. From his poet's brow the peerless American clipper leaped full blown to make a starred banner the talisman of a world's commerce. The twin and triple-screw greyhounds of to-day are the posthumous children of his dreams. Ocean conqueror by sail and by steam, he sleeps as he died, unhonored and unsung — forgotten by a heedless people even as they have forgotten the sea heritage through which they achieved their national existence.

THE HERITAGE OF TYRE

CHAPTER I

And they shall take up a lamentation for thee and say to thee, How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of sea-faring men, the renowned city, which wast strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants!

— EZEKIEL 26 : 17.

SINCE the day that the first man straddled a log and, with an animal's skin or the pelt of one of his own kind for a sail and a horny, spatulate foot for a rudder, started humanity adventuring by sea, the intervening centuries have beheld the occurrence of only seven nations possessed of sufficient genius to dominate the earth's deep waters.

During two thousand two hundred and forty-eight years, Tyre has had but seven true heirs.

And the United States of America, whose national existence measures no more than an hour's space in that great scheme of time, is one of these.

The estate of Tyre — civilization's estate in the seas — was founded by Phœnicia. Before Solomon knew the taste of Sheba's lips, Phœnicia's galleys had taken toll of the far coasts of the Red Sea and India. Through her use of the sea and her skill in the ways thereof she reared a small and insignificant principality on what is now the Syrian coast of the Mediterranean into a power which ordered the affairs of the entire ancient world.

Tyre, her principal port, was the inspiration of all commerce. Irrespective of nationality, all who trafficked by sea were called "Merchants of Tyre" and all vessels of burden "Ships of Tyre." As later, for a time, all roads were to lead to Rome, so all sea routes led to Phœnicia's capital.

Dynasties lived by grace of Tyre's credit and died at the calling of her loans.