

**THE WALDORF FAMILY;  
OR, GRANDFATHER'S  
LEGENDS**

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The Waldorf family; or, Grandfather's legends by Mrs. Emma C. Embury

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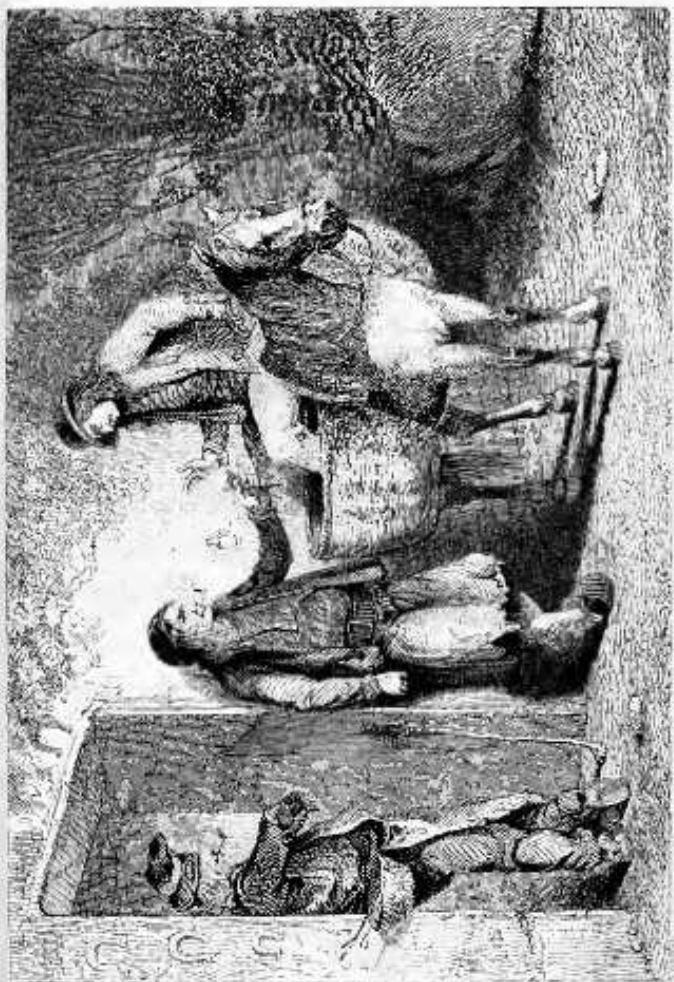
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**MRS. EMMA C. EMBURY**

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BY  
MRS. EMMA C. EMBURY.

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## PREFACE.

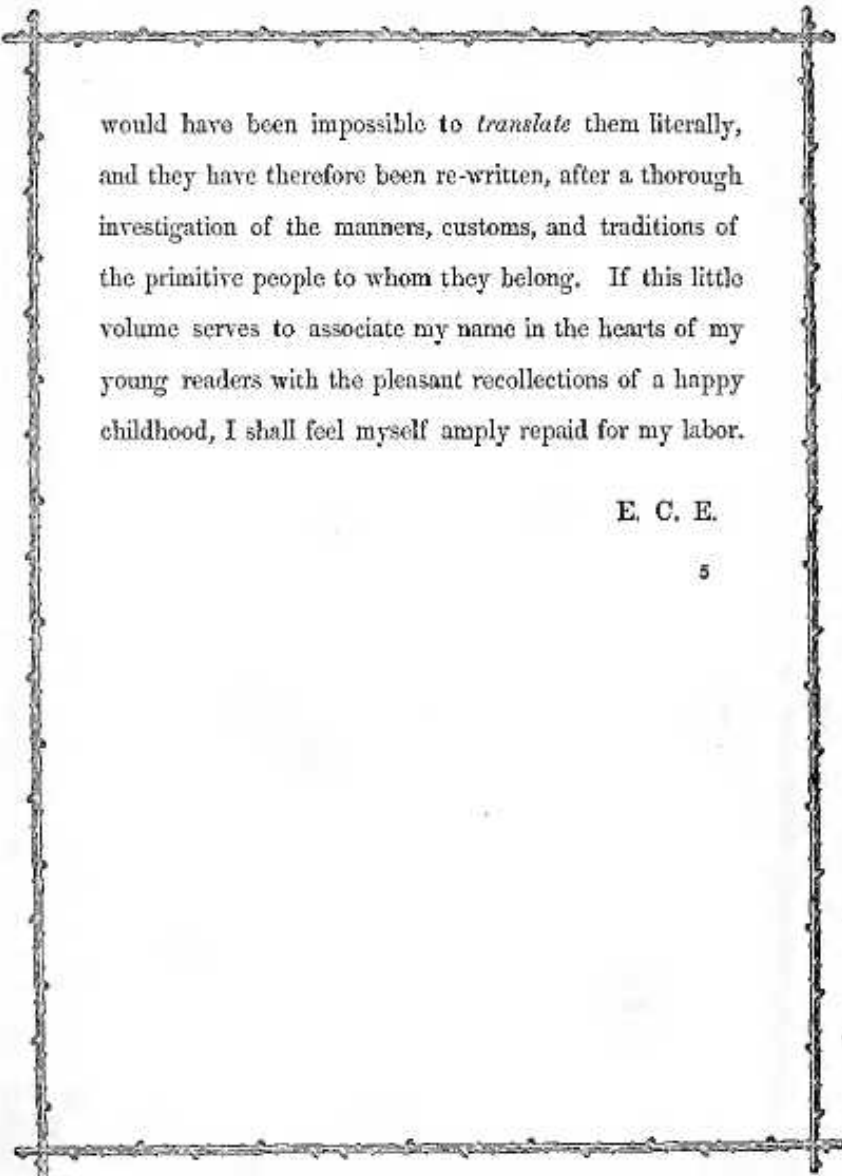
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**S**O much has been done in modern times to convert little children into precocious men and women, that a work like the one now offered to youthful readers, almost seems to require an apology. I have always thought that an attractive fairy tale, so thoroughly pervaded by a fine moral truth, that the youthful mind cannot but imbibe its influence, is of far more effective benefit than an overstrained moral tale, whose improbable incidents, and exaggerated ideas of excellence, tend to give false views of life and its duties.



This opinion has been confirmed by my acquaintance with a child of exceedingly lovely and high-toned character, who always refused to read any thing that was not strictly true or palpably false. Her first question, when presented with a book, would be, "Is it true?" If it was not, she would ask: "Is it a fairy tale?" And if it was neither the one nor the other, all her fondness for reading could not induce her to accept it. The reason she assigned for this apparent inconsistency was significant of the truthfulness which is still her prevailing trait: "I don't like books that *pretend* to be true; give me either histories or fairy tales."

The fine moral which runs through the legends of Brittany, and the quaint simplicity of their details, tempted me to array them in a garb which would render them presentable to American children. This I have done by taking off the trappings of superstition, without depriving them of their original Breton costume, to which they owe so much of their picturesqueness. It



would have been impossible to *translate* them literally, and they have therefore been re-written, after a thorough investigation of the manners, customs, and traditions of the primitive people to whom they belong. If this little volume serves to associate my name in the hearts of my young readers with the pleasant recollections of a happy childhood, I shall feel myself amply repaid for my labor.

E. C. E.

