

**A MEMOIR OF  
ZERAH COLBURN**

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A memoir of Zerah Colburn by Zerah Colburn

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**ZERAH COLBURN**

**A MEMOIR OF  
ZERAH COLBURN**





WILLIAM COLEMAN

A  
MEMOIR  
OF  
ZERAH COLBURN;

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

CONTAINING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST DISCOVERY OF HIS REMARKABLE POWERS;  
HIS TRAVELS IN AMERICA AND RESIDENCE IN EUROPE; A  
HISTORY OF THE VARIOUS PLANS DEVISED FOR HIS  
PATRONAGE; HIS RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY,  
AND THE CAUSES WHICH LED HIM TO  
HIS PRESENT PROFESSION;

WITH HIS

PECULIAR METHODS OF CALCULATION.

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PUBLISHED BY G. AND C. MERRILL  
1833.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1833,  
By ZERAH COLBURN,  
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Massachusetts.



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## PREFACE.

A brief one will probably be best. In reference to the diffidence the author has had in presenting this work to the public, the want of talent, and the fear that the events of his life might not be of sufficient interest to warrant a publication, were the principal reasons for his unwillingness. The rough sketch which he drew up, however, was shown to a gentleman whose standing in the literary world gives weight to his opinion, and whose name is withheld only lest his credit should suffer by encouraging so poor a performance; he recommended to the author to proceed. Here it is, then, with all its defects. He has only to ask the continued indulgence of that public who have so long taken an interest in his case: if they will bear with him in this performance, probably he shall never again trespass upon their patience and kindness in the same way.

It was at first intended to publish the work by subscription, but the objections entertained by many against subscribing for a book which they had not seen, induced the author to change his plan. The work is now furnished at less than the proposed subscription price.





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