

**THE DOWNING  
LEGENDS:  
STORIES IN RHYME**

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The Downing Legends: Stories in Rhyme by J. W. DeForest

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**J. W. DEFOREST**

**THE DOWNING  
LEGENDS:  
STORIES IN RHYME**





*J. W. DeForest (1892)*

# THE DOWNING LEGENDS

Stories in Rhyme

THE WITCH OF SHILOH  
THE LAST OF THE WAMPANOAGS  
THE GENTLE EARL  
THE ENCHANTED VOYAGE

BY  
J. W. DEFOREST

AUTHOR OF A LOVER'S REVOLT, THE ODDEST OF COURTSHIPS, IRREK THE MISSIONARY,  
PLAYING THE MISCHIEF, JUSTINE'S LOVERS, HONEST JOHN VANR, THE WETHER-  
ELL AFFAIR, KATE DRUMMONT, OVERLAND, MISS RAVENEL'S CONVERSION,  
BEACLIFF, EUROPEAN ACQUAINTANCE, ORIENTAL ACQUAINTANCE,  
WITCHING TIMES, ETC., ETC.

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NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT  
THE TUTTLE, MOREHOUSE & TAYLOR COMPANY  
PUBLISHERS AND PRINTERS

1901

## CONTENTS.

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|                                       | Page |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Prelude, . . . . .                    | ix   |
| The Witch of Shiloh, . . . . .        | 3    |
| The Last of the Wampanoags, . . . . . | 55   |
| The Gentle Earl, . . . . .            | 117  |
| The Enchanted Voyage, . . . . .       | 157  |

133141

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



## PREFACE

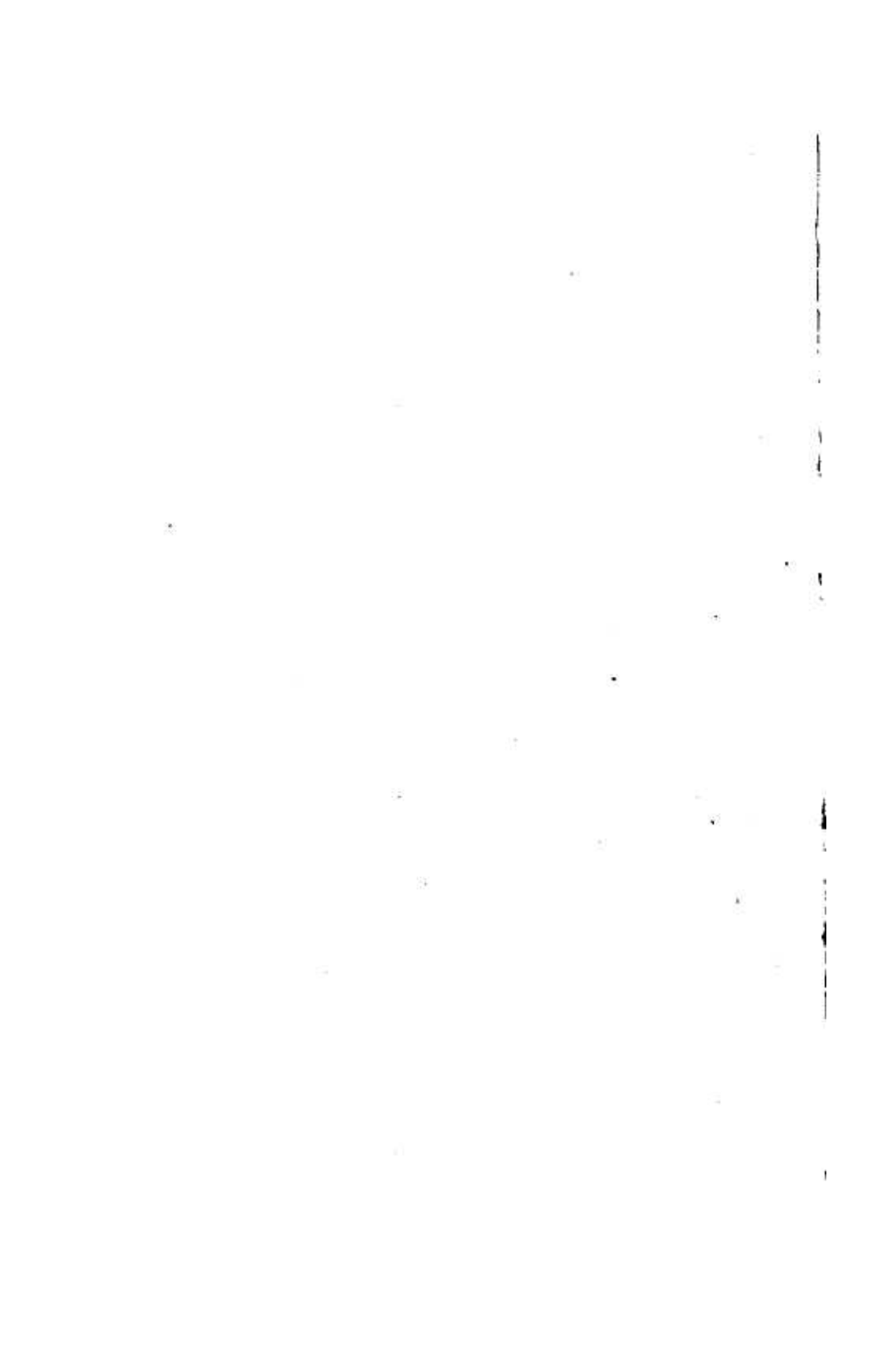
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In regard to form the Downing Legends are rhymed "magazine stories."

In regard to spirit they are extravaganzas. They will not be liked except by readers who like such works as the *Odyssey*, the *Arabian Nights*, the *Orlando Innamorato* of Boiardo and Berni, the *Orlando Furioso* of Ariosto, the *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Gulliver's Travels*, *Knickerbocker's History of New York*, and Hawthorne's *Wonder Tales*.

Of course Downing is American "manifest destiny" in a whimsical guise. As to an exact correspondence between his adventures and our national doings I leave that question to Congress, the Supreme Court and the American people, sitting in joint referendum. These adventures will no doubt be stigmatized by critic Gradgrind as incredible, unpractical and absurd. From his judgment I appeal confidently, like any other author, to remote posterity.

Good old Mr. Feeble Mind (well known to admirers of Bunyan) will also have somewhat to say, which will not be clearly understood, and so need not be answered, at least not prophetically.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES.

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### THE WITCH OF SHILOH.

| Section. | Line. |  |
|----------|-------|--|
| 2        | 24    | <i>Giles Cory</i> was pressed to death at Salem, 1692, for refusing to plead to the charge of witchcraft.                                |
| 18       | 1     | <i>Eyen</i> = Eyes.  |
| 21       | 35    | <i>Flyted</i> = flitted.   |
| 24       | 28    | <i>Throwed a transformation.</i> From "Threw a fit."   |
| 39       | 18    | <i>Nipton.</i> Old seashore form of Neptune, sometimes used for Satan.   |
| 42       | 30    | <i>Shingle whacking.</i> Spinning a toad aloft by putting it on one end of a balanced shingle and hitting the other end with a bludgeon. |

### THE LAST OF THE WAMPANOAGS.

|    |    |  |
|----|----|--|
| 1  | 2  | <i>Baldybird.</i> The bald eagle.                                  |
| 4  | 24 | <i>Metacom</i> = King Philip, or Philip of Pokanoket. Killed 1676. |
| 30 | 3  | <i>Withouten</i> = without.  |

### THE GENTLE EARL.

|    |    |  |
|----|----|--|
| 5  | 11 | <i>To weet</i> = To wit; to know; to note.   |
| 17 | 12 | <i>Brandon's Isle</i> = St. Brandon's Isles. |
| 20 | 6  | <i>A-gley</i> = Astray.                      |