

STORIES OF DIXIE

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Stories of Dixie by James W. Nicholson

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JAMES W. NICHOLSON

**STORIES
OF DIXIE**



Nick when a little boy

STORIES OF DIXIE

BY

JAMES W. NICHOLSON, A.M., LL.D.

PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY



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NEW YORK

CINCINNATI

CHICAGO

Folk
M...

DEDICATION

One of the wisest and most beautiful acts
 related in this book
 is that referred to by Governor McEnery
 in the conclusion of the story of the Gee Place:
 "When Doctor Egan and my father died
 their sons came together
 and agreed not to prolong the feud of their fathers.
 Accordingly, the matter was dropped and forgotten,
 and there are now
 no warmer friends in the state
 than the sons of those two good men."

*THE CHILDREN
 OF THOSE WHO WORE THE BLUE*

and

*THE CHILDREN
 OF THOSE WHO WORE THE GRAY,*

in pursuing the same wise and patriotic course,
 have given to the nation's history

ITS MOST GLORIOUS CHAPTER.

To these sons and daughters,

NORTH AND SOUTH,
 this little labor of love

IS DEDICATED.

PREFACE

THIS book is made up of true stories about Dixie—stories of people and conditions. In it there are no excesses and no fanciful creations, whether of persons or affairs. Its aim is to instruct and entertain by portraying, simply and truthfully, real things and happenings in Dixie.

If the history of the South be regarded as a building this book aims to be the vestibule thereof, and the attempt has been made so to construct and furnish it that those who enter therein may be incited to go on into the building itself. Should it be thought that too much is said of trifles the reply would be: (1) the book is intended mainly for young people; and (2) one has a lopsided knowledge of the people of Dixie who knows nothing of their jokes and sports.

A quasi biography of "Nick" runs through the book. While true, as far as it goes, its purpose is chiefly mechanical. It is somewhat of a path winding its way through a forest from which the necessary bearings are taken to draw a map of the tract. Around it are woven the "stories of Dixie" pretty much as the gems and jewels of a crown are entwined about the skeleton frame that holds them in order, continuity, and perspective.

The white people of the South are generally homogeneous as to manners, habits, and ideals. They sprang from a common ancestry and have been molded by like means and agencies. Probably the section which was most

representative of the whole South in 1860 was North Louisiana. At that time it was the last section settled, and its healthful climate, fertile lands, and abundant timber, fish, and game attracted settlers from all parts of the South. It was Dixie in a nutshell, and for this reason it is made the scene of many of the stories.

This book had its origin in two suggestions, one coming from a northern and the other from a southern source:

In the early spring of 1913 the author, while dining with Dr. W. T. H. Howe, of Cincinnati, O., attempted to entertain him with stories of the South. The doctor's appreciation of the narratives was such that he suggested the writing and publishing of them in book form.

About the same time *The Daily Picayune*, of New Orleans, having referred very approvingly to a communication from Dr. Van Dyke to the children of New Jersey, suggested a message from the present writer to the children of Louisiana.

The author wishes to thank most heartily his colleague Hugh Mercer Blain, Ph.D., Professor of English, who has read the manuscript and offered many helpful suggestions.

In retraveling, as it were, the long voyage described in this book the author has been accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. A. P. Daspit, and to him she has been a cheering and helpful companion,—a motor and a rudder. Among other things she has often reminded him of the two old maxims: "The secret of being tiresome is in telling everything," and "The most completely lost of all days is that on which one has not laughed."

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