

**THE YOUNG
EXPLORER; OR,
AMONG THE SIERRAS**

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The young explorer; or, Among the Sierras by Horatio Alger

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HORATIO ALGER

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1880

BY

HORATIO ALGER, Jr.

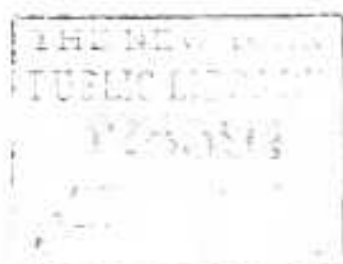
AUTHOR OF "RAGGED DICK," "TATTERED TON," "LUCK AND PLUCK,"
"BRAVE AND BOLD," SERIES; ETC., ETC.



LORING, Publisher,

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BOSTON.



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A. K. LORING.
1880.

To my Young Friends,

HILL AND TILLIE PENNELL,

OF PHILADELPHIA,

IN MEMORY OF PLEASANT DAYS PASSED TOGETHER ON THE
PACIFIC SLOPE,

This Story

IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

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PREFACE.

"The Young Explorer," like "The Young Miner," its immediate predecessor in the Pacific Series, chronicles the adventures of a young pioneer in California. Ben Stanton is strong and self-reliant, but not more so than many boys of his age. Boys, like men, are developed by circumstances, and one who is early thrown upon his own resources is forced to display all the energy which he possesses. I hope Ben will be as popular among my young readers as his predecessors. His story will be read by

many boys who have their own way to make in the world. It is hoped that they will be stimulated by his example, and induced to emulate his manliness and fidelity to duty.

NEW YORK, Sept. 10, 1880.

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CHAPTER I.

BEN'S INHERITANCE.

"I'VE settled up your father's estate, Benjamin," said Job Stanton. "You'll find it all figured out on this piece of paper. There was that two-acre piece up at Rockville brought seventy-five dollars, the medder fetched a hundred and fifty, the two cows—"

"How much does it all come to, Uncle Job?" interrupted Ben, who was impatient of details.

"Hadn't you better let me read off the items, nephew?" asked Job, looking over his spectacles.

"No, Uncle Job. I know you've done your best for me, and there's no need of your going

through it all. How much is there left after all expenses are paid?"

"That's what I was a comin' to, Ben. I make it out that there's three hundred and sixty-five dollars and nineteen cents. That's a dollar for every day in the year. It's a good deal of money, Ben."

"So it is, Uncle Job," answered Ben, and he was quite sincere. There are not many boys of sixteen to whom this would not seem a large sum.

"You're rich; that is, for a boy," added Uncle Job.

"It's more than I expected, uncle. I want you to take fifteen dollars and nineteen cents. That'll leave me just three hundred and fifty."

"Why should I take any of your money, nephew?"

"You've had considerable trouble in settling up the estate, and it's taken a good deal of your time, too."

"My time aint of much vally, and as to the trouble, it's a pity ef I can't take some trouble