

**THE FIRST OF THE  
KNICKERBOCKERS:  
A TALE OF 1673**

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The first of the Knickerbockers: a tale of 1673 by P. Hamilton Myers

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**P. HAMILTON MYERS**

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FIRST OF THE KNICKERBOCKERS:  
A Tale of 1673.

BY P. HAMILTON MYERS,  
AUTHOR OF THE "YOUNG PATROON," ETC.

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"Noch leeft de trouwe zorgh van *Justits Burger-Heeren* !  
En strekt zich Oost en West ten beste van 't gemeen :  
Enkonden kloekkelijk een Landt en volk regeeren  
Dat schier gelijk het Ven liep wild en woest daar heen.  
Die grijsse en wijse zorgh doet *Hollands Taxen* bewaren ;  
En 't *Nieuwe Nederland* ouit Christelijk wel varen."

*E. Nieuwenhof's Ode, dedicated to  
De Hooglofelycke Joan Huyckhooper,  
Lord of Nierdyck.*

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TO  
WASHINGTON IRVING, ESQ.,

THIS VOLUME IS

(BY PERMISSION,)

Most Respectfully Inscribed,

BY THE AUTHOR.





## PREFACE.

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MUCH wit has been expended upon prefaces ; and it has sometimes happened that a whole string of brilliants, constituting, perhaps, an author's chief stock in trade, has been ostentatiously displayed at the door, as it were, of his book, luring the unsuspecting reader within, only to find that the interior of the edifice had been despoiled to ornament the vestibule. Such introductions may be compared to a large fire, lighted at the mouth of a cavern, which serves only to reveal the darkness within. Their writers, if yet another metaphor may be allowed, are like clocks at meridian ; they first strike twelve, and afterwards preserve a low and monotonous ticking.

A preface, indeed, is dangerous ground for an author to tread upon. It should be short, pithy, and to the point. It should hold out no false promises ; and should explain to that very

exacting tribunal, the reading community, and to their vigilant purveyors, the critics, the claims to notice of the work which it introduces. It should be unassuming, concise, lucid, and bold; with a slight odor of incense for the very capacious nostrils of the Public, and a sort of gentle "by your leave" flashing of genuine wit.

Despairing of attaining such a standard, the author of the following tale has determined to write no preface; although, out of regard to precedent, he has affixed that name to what might more properly be termed a postscript. Like that ingenious jeweller, however, who recommended his washed\* tinsel, by asserting, in Yankee phraseology, that the *best* part of it was gold, he would simply say, that although the following work is a fiction, designed to illustrate a great many things, the best, or most important part of the incidents follows, with reasonable fidelity, that interesting line of our earliest colonial history to which public attention has of late been particularly directed.

*New York, October, 1848.*

THE

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## CHAPTER I.

THE great State of New York, rejoicing now in its separate sovereignty, and in its vast metropolis, the conceded capital of the western world, and vieing in resources, both of money and muscles, with the old nations of Europe, seems scarce possibly the same which, less than two centuries ago, was the colonial appendage alternately of England and Holland, and but lightly valued by either. But let it not lower thy honest pride, oh vaunted Empire State! to remember those earlier days, when, in the shuttlecock state of thy existence, thou wast bandied about from owner to owner, now seized by force, and now, a mere make-weight, thrown in to settle some more important bargain. And thou, oh gorgeous city of Manhattan! mart of nations! blush not to own thy former self in a small provincial town, clustered around its parent