

**GREAT DEEDS
OF GREAT MEN**

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Great Deeds of Great Men by Evie Corney & George W. Dorland

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EVIE CORNEY
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GEORGE W. DORLAND

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PREFACE

This little book is planned to give intermediate pupils, through the story of the achievements of the world's greatest discoverers, explorers, and conquerors from the fifth century B.C. to the twentieth century A.D., an idea of how the world came to be known as it is to-day.

While each story is complete in itself, and may be used independently, if need be, to meet the requirements of a course of study, yet each is so linked to the others that the book as a whole is an elementary history of the world from the time of Darius to the present.

The courtesy of the Houghton Mifflin Company in permitting the use of the two stanzas from Margaret Sangster's poem, "Washington's Birthday," in the story of Washington, is gratefully acknowledged.

The authors also acknowledge their indebtedness to the well-known authorities on the life and times of the men selected as the subjects of these stories.

TO OUR YOUNG READERS

These stories of famous men are told with two main purposes.

The first purpose is to help you to learn something of how the known world has grown from small beginnings to what it is to-day. Many other great men, besides those whose stories are told here, have helped in this growth. You will hear and read of them from time to time, as you continue your studies.

The second purpose is to show you why and how these men did certain things. You will come to see how ambition, skill, and courage enabled them to overcome difficulties and achieve results.

While we cannot always applaud their deeds and praise their methods, we can learn something from the story of every one of them.

What you thus learn may help you later to choose worthy aims in life, and to use all your courage and skill to make your dreams come true.

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GREAT DEEDS OF GREAT MEN

DARIUS, THE KING OF THE WISE MEN

Have you ever seen Persian rugs? Darius (*Da-ri'us*) saw them, and he was born more than twenty-four hundred years ago, when even grown people who lived in the country of the Wise Men had not seen and did not know so many things as some boys and girls see and know now. The Wise Men were the priests that served in the temples of Persia when Darius was king of that country.

I said Darius was born more than twenty-four hundred years ago; but if you had asked me the year of his birth, I should probably have answered: "549 B.C." That means five hundred forty-nine years before Christ was born. We tell when things have happened by saying they took place so many years before or so many years after the birth of Christ. Thus, we say the birthday of Darius was in 549 B.C., and Lincoln's birthday was in 1809 A.D., that is, eighteen hundred nine years after Christ was born.

This world of ours was already very old when Darius was born. To be sure, men knew very little about it, except just the places where they lived. But for all