

LEGEND OF A LAKE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649364831

Legend of a Lake by John Alleyne Macnab

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JOHN ALLEYNE MACNAB

**LEGEND
OF A LAKE**



"AND STREAMS RAN FROM IT DOWN THE ROCK-RIBBED HILLS."

LEGEND OF A LAKE

BY
JOHN ALLEYNE MACNAB
Author of "SONG OF THE PASSAIC."

WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES

ILLUSTRATED BY
EDGAR MAYHEW BACON

"Chaos, confused mass, unbounded space,
He breathed His voice o'er thee, and thou wast made ;
And when He spake the waters oozed forth,
And o'er thy surface spread their limpid streams,
As though to weep their birth away in tears."

— J. T. Cassedy.

NEW YORK
GEO. M. ALLEN COMPANY
BROADWAY, CORNER 21ST STREET

1893

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I.

There is a legend,* told in Indian tongue,
That dates far back to pre-historic days;
Tradition hands it down from old to young,
In tribal language with unfeigning ways.
But many search from plain to mountain crest,
And follow trails that lead o'er hill and dale,
To find the waters of a lake,² and test
The truth or fiction of a wondrous tale.
While others delve amid forgotten lines,
To seek new light from legendary signs.

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* See Explanatory Notes.

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M A R T



"BUT MANY SEARCH FROM PLAIN TO MOUNTAIN CREST."

II.

The earth, 'tis said, was level,³ and the land
Was here and there divided by the sea;
And first-born men, in strange nomadic band,
Roved to and fro with sense of liberty.
Great forests grew and furnished game for food;
The seas were filled with many kinds of fish;
And though that people were of simple mood,
And plain and frugal in their every wish,
Yet, smoldering along their walks of life,
The fires of hate were kindling into strife.⁴