HISTORICAL SERIES -BOOK III, PART I. STORIES OF OUR COUNTRY

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Historical Series - Book III, Part I. Stories of our country by James Johonnot

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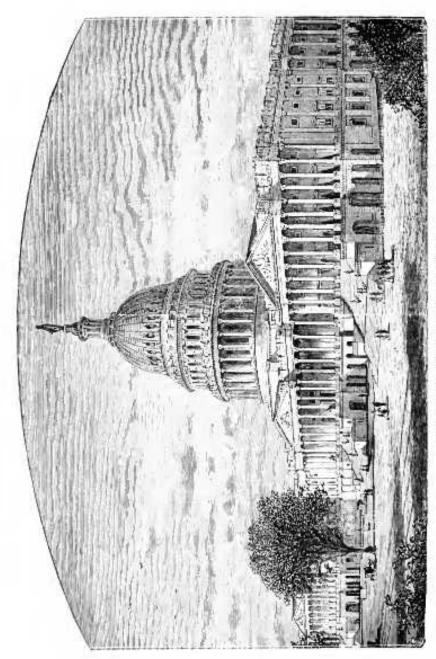
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JAMES JOHONNOT

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Trieste



National Capitol at Weshington,

HISTORICAL SERIES-BOOK III PART I

STORIES

OF OUR COUNTRY



COMPILED AND ARRANGED

BY JAMES JOHONNOT



NEW YORK ·:· CINCINNATI ·:· CHICAGO A M E R I C A N B O O K C O M P A N Y





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PREFACE.

THE Icelanders, who live amid the cold and desolation of almost perpetual winter, have a proverb which says that "Iceland is the best land the sun shines upon." In spite of all their hardships and privations, they cherish an intense love of country, and, when transported to more genial climes, many a poor exile has pined away his life from pure home-sickness. The Icelander loves his country, not for what it produces, not for its beauty, not for its riches, but because it is his home. In the little hut, half buried in the snow, he was born, and there he grew up under the watchful providence of mother-love. Around him were loving kindred-father, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and all-and in this spot, where homelove was born, are concentrated the profounder emotions of his nature. But the home reaches out to other homes, and patriotism, or love of country, is born and becomes a dominating sentiment in his heart and brain.

This sentiment of love of country and loyalty to its interests is not the monopoly of a nation or a race, but belongs to all men and all ages. Having its birth at the fireside, it is nurtured by the story of the daring, the suffering, the courage, and the endurance which made

PREFACE.

homes possible. Whether heard from grandfather's knee or read from books, no child ever tires of such stories, and there grows up within him a resolve that the blessings which cost so much shall be preserved. This form of pure patriotism may be greatly stimulated by work in school.

By the use of this little work the pupil has all the aids to reading which characterize ordinary reading-books lessons for practice, variety in style, and all the necessities of elementary elocution. Besides these, he gets all the interest that the story excites, the knowledge which it unfolds, and the sentiment which it imparts, and the reading-lesson becomes a potent force in mental and moral development.

The spirit of adventure shown by the old navigators; the hardy endurance of the early settlers; the sturdy independence of their sons; and the wise and unselfish patriotism of Washington and his compatriots, can not fail to inspire a love for this America of ours which will cherish its virtues, remove its imperfections, and protect it from all enemies, without and within.

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