

**THE MERRY ADVENTURES
OF ROBIN HOOD
OF GREAT RENOWN
IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

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The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood of Great Renown in Nottinghamshire by Howard Pyle

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HOWARD PYLE


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OF ROBIN HOOD
OF GREAT RENOWN
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The Merry Friar carrieth
Robin acros the Water :

HP.


AMERICAN



THE
MERRY ADVENTURES
of
ROBIN HOOD

of Great Renown, in *Nottinghamshire*.
WRITTEN and ILLUSTRATED
By HOWARD PYLE.



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M D C C C L X X X I I I .





From the Author to the Reader.

YOU who so plod amid serious things that you feel it shame to give yourself up even for a few short moments to mirth and joyousness in the land of Fancy; you who think that life hath nought to do with innocent laughter that can harm no one; these pages are not for you. Clap to the leaves and go no farther than this, for I tell you plainly that if you go farther you will be scandalized by seeing good, sober folks of real history so frisk and caper in gay colors and motley, that you would not know them but for the names tagged to them. Here is a stout, lusty fellow with a quick temper, yet none so ill for all that, who goes by the name of Henry II. Here is a fair, gentle lady before whom all the others bow and call her Queen Eleanor. Here is a fat rogue of a fellow, dressed up in rich robes of a clerical kind, that all the good folk call my Lord Bishop of Hereford. Here is a certain fellow with a sour temper and a grim look—the worshipful, the Sheriff of Nottingham. And here, above all, is a great, tall, merry fellow that roams the greenwood and joins in homely sports, and sits beside the Sheriff at merry feast, which same beareth the name of the proudest of the Plantagenets—Richard of the Lion's Heart. Beside these there are a whole host of knights, priests, nobles, burghers, yeomen, pages, ladies, lasses, landlords, beggars, pedlars, and what not, all living the merriest of merry lives, and all bound by nothing but a few odd strands of certain old ballads (snipped and clipped and tied together again in a score of knots) which draw these jocund fellows here and there, singing as they go.

Here you will find a hundred dull, sober, jogging places, all tricked out with flowers and what not, till no one would know them in their fanciful dress. And here is a country bearing a well-known name, wherein no chill mists press upon our spirits, and no rain falls but what rolls off our backs like April showers off the backs of sleek drakes; where flowers bloom forever and birds are always singing; where every fellow hath a merry catch as he travels the roads, and ale and beer and wine (such as muddle no wits) flow like water in a brook.

This country is not Fairy-land. What is it? 'Tis the land of Fancy, and is of that pleasant kind that, when you tire of it, — whisk! — you clap the leaves of this book together and 'tis gone, and you are ready for every-day life, with no harm done.

And now I lift the curtain that hangs between here and No-man's-land. Will you come with me, sweet Reader? I thank you. Give me your hand.





PROLOGUE.

Robin Hood sets forth to the shooting-match at Nottingham Town — Meets the King's foresters feasting in the forest — The foresters mock him — He slays a deer upon a wager — The foresters drive him away — He slays one of them — He seeks refuge in the forest, where many others join with him — Robin Hood sets forth to seek adventure — Meets a stranger at a bridge — They fight upon the bridge — Robin Hood is overthrown — He calls his merry men, who overcome the stranger — Robin Hood shoots a match with the stranger, whom he vanquishes — The stranger joins the band — The stranger is christened in the forest and thenceforth called Little John 1

PART FIRST.

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The Sheriff of Nottingham sends a messenger to Lincoln — The messenger meets a Tinker — The Tinker sets forth to seek Robin Hood — Meets Robin Hood, but does not know him — Robin makes the Tinker drunk at the Blue Boar Inn — Robin steals his warrant — The Tinker meets Robin in the forest — They fight — The Tinker joins the band 13

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Little John tires of the Sheriff's service—The Sheriff's Steward refuses Little John his breakfast—Little John smites the Steward—The Steward calls upon the Cook to help him—The Cook and Little John have a merry feast together—The Cook and Little John have a mighty battle—Little John persuades the Cook to join the Band—The Cook and Little John steal the Sheriff's silver plate—Little John returns to Robin Hood—Robin Hood chides Little John for stealing the plate—Little John brings the Sheriff to Sherwood—Robin Hood gives the Sheriff his plate again, and leads him out of the forest 65

PART THIRD.

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The three yeomen rest by the wayside—Robin Hood stops a stranger in scarlet—Robin Hood fights the stranger—He is overcome—Little