# YOUNG FOLK'S LIBRARY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE; STORIES OF GREAT MEN

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

#### ISBN 9780649712892

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#### **EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY**

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#### Young Folk's Library of American Literature.

## **STORIES**

OF

## GREAT MEN.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY
BOSTON
NEW YORK CHICAGO SAN FRANCISCO

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## CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.



### COLUMBUS.

Columbus was born in Genoa. Genoa is a town in Italy. It is a seaport town.

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Columbus used to like to sit on the wharves and look off across the water. He used to wonder what he should find if he sailed out to sea.

Often sailing vessels came into the Genoa port. They cast their anchors in the harbor.

\*Sometimes they came close up to the wharves. Then Columbus and the other little boys would go on board the vessels.

The sailors used to tell these little boys about other lands far away across the sea.

Columbus would listen all day long to these stories.

They made him want to be a sailor.

"Some time I shall go to sea," he used to say.

Columbus had three brothers and three sisters.

The children all liked to hear the stories of the sea.

Columbus used to tell them to his little sister.

She would listen with eyes and mouth wide open. The stories were like fairy stories to her.

You must know there were very few books in those days.

There were no books for children.

All little children could learn was what older people would tell them. That is why they listened so eagerly to stories, I think.

By and by Columbus grew to be a big boy.

He liked more than ever to hear the sailors "spin their yarns."

He still loved the sea. He still said, "Some time I shall go to sea."

The father of Columbus was a wool-comber by trade.

He would have been glad to have his boy stay at home and comb wool with him. But he was a wise man. He knew that his boy would not be contented to comb wool.

So he said, "Columbus, if you want to be a sailor, you must be a good sailor. You must be wise.