

**JAMES FENIMORE
COOPER**

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James Fenimore Cooper by W. B. Shubrick Clymer

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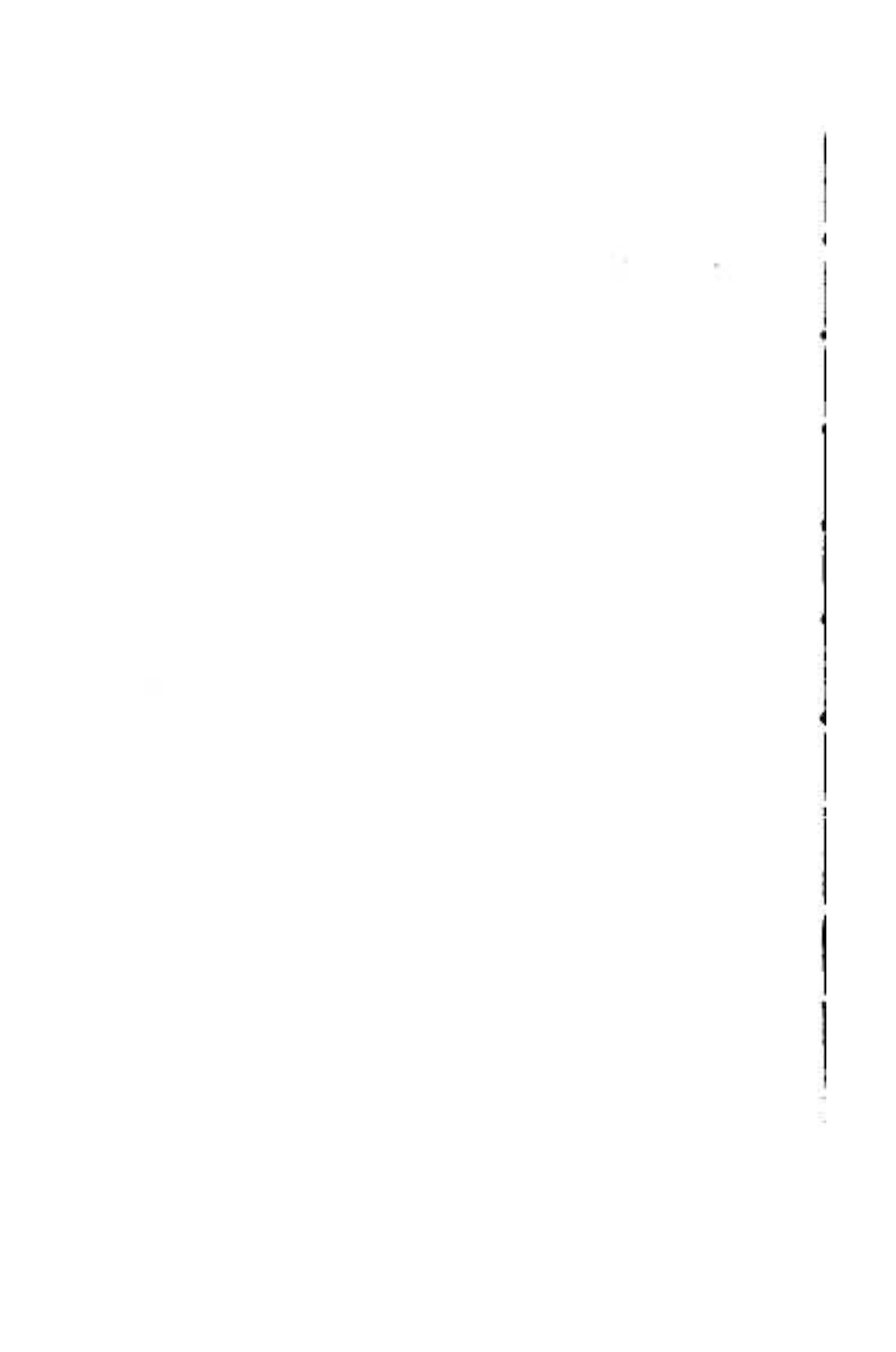
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The photogravure used as a frontispiece
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To the Memory
of
WILLIAM BRANFORD SHUBRICK
U. S. N.



PREFACE.

It is sixty years since Irving closed "The Pathfinder" with the gracious words: "They may say what they will of Cooper: the man who wrote this book is not only a great man, but a good man." There is not a doubt of it. Study of his life teaches that evil tongues need not blight fair fame. Bryant, in the memorial address delivered five months after Cooper's death, told simple truth which the world now accepts. Professor Lounsbury thirty years later demonstrated, by critical sifting of all the published evidence, that in agreeing with Irving and Bryant the world is right.

Shortly stating the most significant facts, yet omitting so much relevant matter as at times to endanger narrative continuity, I have followed, with the incidental aid of literary histories and the like, and with some personal help from friends, the able guidance of the only biographer of Cooper. My indebtedness to him is interlined on al-