

**THE STORY OF
GRETTIR
THE STRONG**

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The Story of Grettir the Strong by Allen French

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ALLEN FRENCH

**THE STORY OF
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THE STRONG**



“Fool, Awake!” Said Angle Again

THE STORY OF
Grettir the Strong

By
ALLEN FRENCH



GRETTIR THE STRONG

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PREFACE

AMONG Icelandic sagas there are two which, from their human interest and literary perfection, deserve to be classed with world-literature. The first of these is the Njal's Saga, the second the Grettir's Saga; both of them have been in English form for about forty years, but because the translations faithfully followed the originals they never became popular, especially since this branch of literature, of great importance in illustrating the development of the northern races, has in our schools been neglected in favor of the poetry and mythology of the Greeks and Romans.

Valuable as are the classic tales, there is to be drawn from them no such lesson of manliness as the northern stories teach. If I wished a lad to learn from his reading the quality of steadfast courage, I would put into his hands these two Icelandic sagas, with the *Morte d'Arthur* and even the *Nibelungen Lied*, rather than the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey*, or the *Æneid*. There is only one book whose tales surpass these northern stories in teaching the lesson of manly self-dependence, and that book is the Bible.

Widely known as are the *Njal's* and the *Grettir's Sagas*, they have come, as I said, very little into popularity on account of their original mass of detail, which although invaluable for the student confuses the gen-