# FAVORITE BOOKS OF WELL KNOWN PEOPLE WHEN THEY WERE BOYS AND GIRLS

··· P69

SECOND EDITION



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# Favorite Books of Well Known People When They Were Boys and Girls

A Book

"He ate and drank the precious words, His spirit grew robust; He knew no more that he was poor, Nor that his frame was dust. He danced along the dingy days, And this bequest of wings Was but a book. What liberty A loosened spirit brings!"

Emily Dickinson.

#### Louisa M. Alcott

Author of "Little women"

#### Kenilworth, by Sir Walter Scott.

A tale of the days of good Queen Bess. It tells of "my lord of Leicester's" secret marriage and of the sad fate of the unfortunate Amy Robsart. Miss Alcott pronounced this "splendid." Other favorites were "Pilgrim's progress" and the stories of Miss Edgeworth.

#### Thomas Bailey Aldrich

"The Bad Boy"

#### Arabian nights.

In "The story of a bad boy" Mr. Aldrich tells about the books he found in his little hall room in the Nutter house. Among them was a fine English edition of the "Arabian nights" with 600 woodcuts by Harvey. "Robinson Crusoe" and "Don Quixote" he found in the attic. "Shall I ever forget," he says, "the hour when I first overhauled these books? I do not allude especially to Baxter's Saints' Rest...but to the Arabian Nights, and particularly Robinson Crusoe. The thrill that ran into my fingers' ends then has not run out yet. Many a time did I steal up to this nest of a room, and, taking the dog's eared volume from its shelf, glide off into an enchanted realm."

The "Arabian nights" was also a favorite with Miss Hewins, who says, "Sindbad the Sailor, the Flying Horse, Bedreddin Hassan, one-eyed calenders, dervishes, afrites, genii, gazelles and ghouls were as well known to me as the Mother Goose people." Lecture on "A child and her books."

#### j S431k

i 398 A65aw

#### Mrs. Juliana Horatia Ewing

### Author of "Jackanapes," "Six to sixteen," and other books for boys and girls

Children of the New forest, by Frederick Marryat. j M412c

Story of the English civil war.

"It is needless to say that as we were brought up on Marryat's Children of the New Forest...our sympathies were entirely devoted to the Stuarts' cause." Gatty's "Juliana Horatia Ewing and her books."

#### Household stories, by the Grimm brothers.

Mrs. Ewing when a girl was the nursery story teller and was given the nickname of Aunt Judy by the other children of the family. "These early stories were influenced to some extent by the books that she then liked best to read—Grimm, Andersen, and Bechstein's fairy tales." *Gatty's "Juliana Horatia Ewing and her books.*"

#### Jeannette L. Gilder

Author and journalist

#### Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin.

"Never was the 'Arabian Nights' read with greater zest than I read this book, and when I had finished it I began and read it all over again. After a second reading I was more determined than ever to become a printer ...Every step in Franklin's career interested me, and...I did not scorn to imitate him as closely as circumstances would permit." "Forum," 1887.

#### Views afoot, by Bayard Taylor.

"This interesting volume so worked upon me that I took my two little sisters one day and ran away from home. I wanted to see the world, and I didn't want to see it alone." "Forum," 1887.

The Library has many good books of travel. Ask for one about the country in which you are most interested.

#### Edward Everett Hale

Author of "The man without a country"

#### Poetical works of Sir Walter Scott.

"[Scott] has been, is, and ever will be Poet of Boys...Of course we knew half 'Marmion' by heart, and a quarter of 'The Lady of the Lake'." "New England boyhood."

#### Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel Defoe.

"That Central Book in Modern Literature, the book which explains all other books to those who cannot understand them without; the book which should have for itself a separate table, shelf, or case." "New England boyhood."

This was also a favorite book of Robert Chambers, who said, "How youth passed long ago, when there was no Crusoe to waft it away in fancy to the Pacific and fix it upon the lonely doings of the shipwrecked mariner, is inconceivable." *Quoted in Baldwin's "Book-lover."* 

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### Librarian, Hartford Public Library

### Alhambra, by Washington Irving.

"One day there was a thunder shower, and... I was beguiled into forgetfulness of heat and lack of oxygen by the offer of Irving from the grown-up book-case,-the double-columned volume that opened the Alhambra, the gate with the hand holding the key, the magic tower, the mimic battle, the Arabian astrologer and the Christian maiden down, down, down in the caverns. It opened, too, the touching, tender story of 'The Rose of the Alhambra,' and 'The Lady of the Fountain' and the journey of the Rose to the same cavern, and the tale of 'The Three Princesses.' I never stopped to ask if the words were long or the style was prolix, but read, read, read, till the sky was clear and the sun shone. I had found a treasure, and went on to Bracebridge Hall, the old Christmas chapters in 'The Sketch Book,' and 'The Tales of a Traveller'." Lecture on "A child and her books."

#### Crofton boys, by Harriet Martineau.

"It was from knowing 'The Crofton Boys' that on my first day in London I counted it an especial privilege to be able to look out of the upper windows of a hotel just off Fleet Street and see the steamers going by on the Thames just as little Hugh Proctor and his sisters used to watch them." Lecture on "A child and her books."

#### Fairy tales, by Hans Christian Andersen.

"It was in a Christmas gift-book...that I first read 'Ole Luckoie' and 'Little Ida's Flowers' and 'The Nightingale.' 'Ole Luckoie,' with its wonder-ful journeys under the umbrella of the Danish 'Sandman,' was the favorite, and there is no other translation of one of the couplets which the lead-pencil made for the doll's wedding as good as the one in this book:

> 'Her skin it is made of a white kid glove, And on her he looks with an eye of love.'

It must have been two or three years after this [that I read] a fat, greencovered Andersen with the creepy 'Travelling Companion,' 'The Red Shoes,' 'The Little Mermaid' and all the other stories." Lecture on "A child and her books."

#### Merrie England, by Grace Greenwood.

Contains short stories which were first published in a monthly paper, "The little pilgrim." This "came to me through the mail, and I had the pleasure of going to the post-office to get it and of reading her stories of history and travel, which made Shakespeare, Guy of Warwick [and other historic characters] real living persons, whose homes I looked forward to seeing some day." Lecture on "A child and her books."

#### Swiss family Robinson, by J. D. Wyss.

"I had read...a little old 'Robinson Crusoe' in the house, with yellow paper and small type, but I never really loved him as I loved...the 'Swiss Family Robinson' with all their suggestive makeshifts and picnicky ways of living in tent, tree and cavern, their pet monkey and all the fauna and flora of the remarkable island which combined the vegetation of the tropical and temperate zones, and where everybody could do and find the right thing in an emergency." Lecture on "A child and her books."

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#### Uncle Tom's cabin, by Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe. S892u

"Not long ago when I heard Mrs. Stowe's son tell 'How Uncle Tom's Cabin was built,' repeating some of the scenes almost literally, I found so many of the phrases familiar and like household words, that I could have helped him if his memory had failed, and told many things that he omitteddescribed the cake that Aunt Chloe invited George to share, the difficulties thrown in the way of Haley starting in pursuit of Eliza, the scenes at the senator's and in the Quaker family, and just how Cassy and Emmeline's hiding-place in Legree's garret was made and furnished." Lecture on "A child and her books."

#### Waverley, by Sir Walter Scott.

"At first...the long, uneventful opening of 'Waverley' did not look attractive, but an extract from the end, the execution of Fergus MacIvor... led me to read the whole, and I was drawn to 'Ivanhoe' by a picture in one of the old annuals and a dimly remembered story in another wherein Rowena's sea-green kirtle and Rebecca's 'simarre' appeared at a fancy ball. After the spell was once upon me, I read every one of the novels, some of them many times over before I was fifteen." Lecture on "A child and her books."

#### Wonder-book, by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

"The 'Wonder-book' was on my pillow when I opened my eyes on the morning of my seventh birthday...the dear green 'Wonder-book' with the Hammatt Billings pictures of the group of children on Tanglewood Porch, Perseus holding up the Gorgon's head, King Midas, Pandora, the three golden apples, Baucis and Philemon and the Chimæra." Lecture on "A child and her books."

#### Thomas Wentworth Higginson

American author

#### **Pickwick papers**, by Charles Dickens.

Higginson kept a record of the books he read as a boy. "The most important...was the entry under February 27, 1835, of the first volume of the 'Pickwick papers'." "Outlook," 1904.

Andrew Lang says, "I read 'Pickwick' in convulsions of mirth." The Library has a beautiful edition illustrated by Frank Reynolds (qj D551p2). There are twenty-four color plates of Mr. Tupman, Mr. Snodgrass, Mr. Winkle, and their illustrious leader, the old lady and the fat boy, Sam Weller, Miss Arabella Allen, Mr. Serjeant Buzfuz, and other characters of the "Pickwick papers."

#### Laurence Hutton

Author and journalist

#### David Copperfield, by Charles Dickens.

Speaking of himself as "The Boy," Mr. Hutton says, "It was the first book The Boy ever read, and he thought then, and sometimes he thinks now, that it was the greatest book ever written...[Other books] never usurped, in his affections, the place of the true account of David Copperfield." "A boy I knew."

While "David Copperfield" was first favorite, "Robinson Crusoe," "Swiss family Robinson," the "Leatherstocking tales" and "Rob Roy" were "well thumbed and well liked."

i 292 H36wo

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### A girl, blind, deaf and dumb, who has become a writer

#### Little Lord Fauntleroy, by Frances Hodgson Burnett. j B934L

"The first book of any consequence I read understandingly... I read it again and again, until I almost knew it by heart; and all through my childhood 'Little Lord Fauntleroy' was my sweet and gentle companion." "Story of my life."

#### Jungle book, by Rudyard Kipling.

#### Wild animals I have known, by Ernest Thompson Seton.

"I feel a genuine interest in the animals themselves, because they are real animals and not caricatures of men. One sympathizes with their loves and hatreds, laughs over their comedies, and weeps over their tragedies." "Story of my life."

#### Macbeth, by Shakespeare.

"I do not remember a time since I have been capable of loving books that I have not loved Shakespeare. I cannot tell exactly when I began Lamb's 'Tales from Shakespeare'; but I know that I read them at first with a child's understanding and a child's wonder. 'Macbeth' seems to have impressed me most. One reading was sufficient to stamp every detail of the story upon my memory forever. For a long time the ghosts and witches pursued me even into Dreamland. I could see, absolutely see, the dagger and Lady Macbeth's little white hand-the dreadful stain was as real to me as to the grief-stricken queen." "Story of my life."

Other books liked by Helen Keller were "Greek heroes," "Hawthorne's "Wonder-book," "A child's history of England" by Dickens, "The Arabian nights," "The Swiss family Robinson," "Pilgrim's progress," "Robinson Crusoe," "Little women," and "Heidi."

#### Andrew Lang

Editor of the "colored" fairy books

Midsummer night's dream, by Shakespeare. j 822.33 P72 "Almost my earliest recollection of books is the memory of a child reading the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' by the firelight." "Forum," 1887.

#### i 821 S43L3 Lady of the lake, by Sir Walter Scott.

"It was in a summer sunset, beside a window looking out on Ettrick and the hill of the Three Brethren's Cairn, that I first read...how

The stag at eve had drunk his fill

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Where danced the moon on Monan's rill, ×

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Then opened the gates of Romance, and with Fitz James we drove the chase, till

Few were the stragglers, following far,

That reached the lake of Vennachar, \*

From that time, for months, there was usually a little volume of Scott in

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#### Leady of the lake—continued.

one's pocket, in company with the miscellaneous collection of a boy's treasures ... Scott peopled for us the rivers and burnsides with his reivers; the Fairy Queen came out to Eildon Hill, and haunted Carterhaugh; at Newark Tower we saw 'the embattled portal arch'

> Whose ponderous grate and massy bar Had oft rolled back the tide of war." "Scribner's magazine," 1891.

#### Quentin Durward, by Sir Walter Scott.

"Next [after 'Ivanhoe'] in order of delight, came 'Quentin Durward,' especially the hero of the scar...Quentin's uncle." "Scribner's magazine," 1801.

#### i 811 L82s Hiawatha, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

"Next to Scott, with me, came Longfellow ... I remember how 'Hiawatha' came out, when one was a boy, and how delightful was the free forest life, and Minnehaha and Paupukkeewis, and Nokomis." "Scribner's magazine," 1891.

#### Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Brontë.

"Probably the first novel I ever read... The tale was a creepy one for a boy of nine, and Rochester was a mystery, St. John a bore. But the lonely little girl in her despair...and her days of starvation at school, and the terrible first Mrs. Rochester, were not to be forgotten." "Scribner's magazine," 1891.

i 398.25 M29a

#### King Arthur and his knights, by Sir Thomas Malory.

"For a boy to read Sir Thomas Malory is to ride at adventure in enchanted forests, to enter haunted chapels where a light swims from the Graal, to find by lonely mountain meres the magic boat of Sir Galahad." "Scribner's magazine," 1891.

#### Lays of ancient Rome, by Lord Macaulay. j 821 M11L2

"In reading the 'Lays of Ancient Rome,' my sympathies were with the expelled kings, at least with him who fought so well at Lake Regillus:

> Titus, the youngest Tarquin, Too good for such a breed."

"Scribner's magazine," 1891.

i T333r

#### The rose and the ring, by William Makepeace Thackeray.

"It was worth while to be twelve years old, when the Christmas books were written by Dickens and Thackeray. I got hold of 'The Rose and the Ring'...and of the 'Christmas Carol' when they were damp from the press. King Valoroso, and Bulbo, and Angelica were even more delightful than Scrooge, and Tiny Tim, and Trotty Veck." "Scribner's magazine," 1891.

#### Poetic and dramatic works of Lord Tennyson. j 821 T29

"From Lord Tennyson first one learned to appreciate the charm, the magic of poetry, as distinct from the joy of the narrative and the interest of the persons. This came to me...when reading the 'Morte d'Arthur,' as a boy." "Forum," 1887.

#### i 821 S43L3

#### i B771i

j S431q

# that remarkable love for stories for which he was so famous all his life." Putnam's "Children's life of Abraham Lincoln." 9

Abraham Lincoln Æsop's fables. A lady gave Lincoln when a boy a copy of Æsop's "Fables" for a present "and Abe felt as happy and rich as a king. He read these fables until he

could repeat them; and some persons have thought this book developed in him

### Lucy Larcom

# A New England factory girl who became a poet

#### Scottish chiefs, by Jane Porter.

"My first novel...So absorbed was I in the sorrows of Lady Helen Mar and Sir William Wallace, that I crept into a corner where nobody would notice me, and read on through sunset into moonlight, with eyes blurred with tears." "New England girlhood."

#### Gulliver's travels, by Dean Swift.

In which Mr. Lemuel Gulliver tells of his shipwreck at sea, his strange adventures among the Lilliputians, and his perilous encounters with the giants of Brobdingnag.

#### Paul and Virginia, by Saint Pierre.

A romance, the scene of which is the tropical island of Mauritius. It is said that Lucy Larcom knew this book and "Gulliver's travels" almost by heart.

#### Old curiosity shop, by Charles Dickens.

"I read [this] in an unfinished room given up to sea-chests and coffeebags and spicy foreign odors...Little Nell and her grandfather became [very] real to me." "New England girlhood."

Ask to see the edition illustrated in color by Frank Reynolds.

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Hymn before sun-rise, in the vale of Chamouni, by Samuel Tavlor Coleridge. (In Bellamy & Goodwin. Open sesame, v.3, p.119–122.)

"With this ideal picture of mountain scenery there came to me a revelation of poetry as the one unattainable something which I must reach out after, because I could not live without it...It was as if Mont Blanc stood visibly before me, while I murmured to myself in lonely places-

> 'Motionless torrents! silent cataracts! Who made you glorious as the gates of heaven Beneath the keen full moon? Who bade the sun Clothe you with rainbows? Who with living flowers Of loveliest blue, spread garlands at your feet?'

I have never visited Switzerland, but I surely saw the Alps, with Cole-ridge, in my childhood." "New England girlhood."

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#### **Pilgrim's progress**, by John Bunyan.

Lincoln's father, while visiting a friend, found an old, soiled copy of "Pilgrim's progress," which he borrowed for Abe. "When he got home and showed this treasure to his son, the boy's eyes sparkled, and he was so delighted that he could neither eat nor sleep. He fairly devoured the book, and was by no means content with one reading." Putnam's "Children's life of Abraham Lincoln."

#### Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

#### **Sketch-book**, by Washington Irving.

"Every reader has his first book...one book among all others which in early youth first fascinates his imagination, and at once excites and satisfies the desires of his mind. To me, this first book was the Sketch-Book of Washington Irving. I was a school-boy when it was published, and read each succeeding number with ever increasing wonder and delight." Samuel Longfellow's "Life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow."

Robert Collyer received a present of the "Sketch-book" and he afterward wrote, "No such delight had touched me since the old days of Crusoe. I saw the Hudson and the Catskills, took poor Rip at once into my heart, as everybody has, pitied Ichabod while I laughed at him, thought the old Dutch feast a most admirable thing." Quoted in Baldwin's "Book-lover."

The Library has a beautiful edition of "Rip Van Winkle" with fifty colored plates by Arthur Rackham. Another edition, illustrated by George Boughton, contains "Rip Van Winkle" and "The legend of Sleepy Hollow."

#### Brander Matthews

Author of "Tom Paulding"

#### Tom Brown's school days, by Thomas Hughes. i H898to

"Perhaps the popularity of 'Tom Brown's school days' was helped by that never-to-be-forgotten fight between Tom Brown and Slogger Williams ... It is curious that three of the best and most boyish boys in fiction should be Toms-Tom Brown, Tom Bailey, and Tom Sawyer." "Forum," 1887.

#### Ivanhoe, by Sir Walter Scott.

"Barely ten years old when 'Ivanhoe' was attempted, three times the seemingly interminable talk of the swineherd caused me to stick at the threshold, like the little pig under the gate. But when at last the portal was passed, and entrance was had into the enchanted palace of delight which the Wizard of the North has created by his Aladdin-lamp of midnight oil, who could resist the magic of the wonder-worker? No healthy boy ever lived who did not long to break lance in the tourney and to go forth as a knight with *Desdichado* on his shield." "Forum," 1887.

Loved also by Andrew Lang, who says, "Perhaps 'Ivanhoe' was first favorite of yore; you cannot beat Front de Bœuf, the assault on his castle, the tournament." "Scribner's magazine," 1891.

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Scottish geologist and author of "The old red sandstone"

Iliad, by Homer.

#### Odyssey, by Homer.

"The Odyssey...I found in the house of a neighbor. Next came the Iliad...I saw...that no other writer could cast a javelin with half the force of Homer. The missiles went whizzing athwart his pages; and I could see the momentary gleam of the steel, ere it buried itself deep in brass and bullhide." "My schools and schoolmasters."

Andrew Lang tells us that Hector and Ajax were as great favorites with him as Horatius on the bridge, or the younger Tarquin. "Here," he says, "was life, here were heroes and lance-thrusts and sword-strokes, for the love of Helen, the fairest of women. Can one ever forget...the first sight of Circe, weaving at her golden woof, and singing her magic song?" "Forum," 1887.

### Agnes Repplier

American writer

#### Last days of Pompeii, by Bulwer-Lytton.

"The rescue of Glaucus from the arena was an epoch in my childhood, and the cry of joy that rings from Nydia's lips rang in my heart for years. I have an inexpressible tenderness now for *The Last Days of Pompeii*, because of the passionate suspense with which I read it when I was a little girl, and the supreme gasp of relief with which I hailed the arrival of Sallust and Calenus, while the lion crouches trembling in his cage." "Essays in miniature."

#### Sintram & his companions, by La Motte-Fouqué. j L194s

"What was the pleasure of eating tarts to the glamour cast over us by our first romance, to the enchanted hours we spent with Sintram by the sea-shore, or with Nydia in the darkened streets of Pompeii." "Books and men."

#### Alice Hegan Rice

#### Author of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch"

#### Castle Blair, by Flora Louisa Shaw.

"The first book that I discovered for myself was 'Castle Blair.' I decided at once that it was the best book that was ever written." "Outlook," 1904.

This is the book which John Ruskin said "is good and lovely and true, having the best description of a noble child in it (Winnie) that I ever read: and nearly the best description of the next best thing—a noble dog."

### Little women, by Louisa M. Alcott.

Story of the happy home life of four girls, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, drawn largely from the girlhood of Miss Alcott and her sisters.

### Little men, by Louisa M. Alcott.

Sequel to "Little women."

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#### Old-fashioned girl, by Louisa M. Alcott.

"Soon after [the discovery of Castle Blair] I fell in love with Miss Alcott, and was so ardent in my devotion that no other books existed for me until I had read and re-read every volume she had written." "Outlook," 1904.

The books whose titles are given are perhaps the best of Miss Alcott's books, but there are also "Eight cousins," "Jack and Jill," "Jo's boys," and others.

#### Donald and Dorothy, by Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge. i D671d

#### Hans Brinker, by Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge.

"When I did deflect, it was for a worthy object-Mrs. Dodge's beautiful stories 'Hans Brinker' and 'Donald and Dorothy.' It was through the latter that I became acquainted with the enormity of the serial... The thought of having to wait a whole month to find out whether Dorothy was really Donald's sister or not reduced me to tears!" "Outlook," 1904.

#### The prince and the pauper, by Mark Twain. i T897p

"One of my prime favorites was 'The Prince and the Pauper,' that fascinating tale of confused identity which seems so real in the reading and so improbable in the remembering." "Outlook," 1904.

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain. j **T**897a

Adventures of Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain.

"There was one period when I became deeply interested in my brother's books, and shared his enthusiasm for ... 'Tom Sawyer' and 'Huckleberry Finn'." "Outlook," 1904.

Faith Gartney's girlhood, by Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney. i W651f

The other girls, by Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney. These "were dearly beloved." "Outlook," 1904.

#### Anne Thackeray Ritchie

Daughter of Thackeray the novelist and herself a writer

#### Parent's assistant, by Maria Edgeworth.

"I seem to have lived in company with a delightful host of little playmates, bright, busy children, whose cheerful presence remains more vividly in my mind than that of many of the real little boys and girls who used to appear and disappear disconnectedly...But day by day, constant and unchanging, ever to be relied upon, smiled our most lovable and friendly companions: Simple Susan...the dear little merchants, Jem, the widow's son, with his arms around old Lightfoot's neck, the generous Ben, with his whipcord and his useful proverb of 'Waste not, want not,'-all of these were there in the window corner waiting our pleasure." Quoted in Repplier's "Books and men."

#### **Popular tales**, by Maria Edgeworth.

"After Parent's Assistant...came Popular Tales in big brown volumes off a shelf in the lumber-room of an apartment in an old house in Paris; and as we opened the books, lo! creation widened to our view. England, Ireland, America, Turkey, the mines of Golconda, the streets of Bagdad, thieves, travelers, governesses, natural philosophy, and fashionable life were all laid under contribution, and brought interest and adventure to our humdrum nursery corner." Quoted in Repplier's "Books and men."

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#### Theodore Roosevelt

**Cast away in the cold**, by I. I. Hayes.

Story of an old sailor who ran away to sea. He tells how he was shipwrecked and of the adventures which befell him on a lonely island in the Arctic sea.

William Henry letters, by Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz. j D539wi Letters exchanged by a small boy at boarding school and his friends at home.

These "were first-class, good healthy stories, interesting in the first place, and in the next place teaching manliness, decency and good conduct." "Outlook," 1913.

Leatherstocking tales, by James Fenimore Cooper.

Deerslayer j C787d
Last of the Mohicansj C787L
Pathfinder j C787pa
Pioneers
Prairie
"There is nothing like them. I could pass examination in the whole of

them to-day. Deerslayer with his long rifle, Jasper and Hurry Harry, Ishmael Bush with his seven stalwart sons—do I not know them? I have bunked with them and eaten with them." *Riis's "Theodore Roosevelt, the citizen.*"

**Popular natural history,** by J. G. Wood.

"My father...gave me a little book by J. G. Wood, the English writer of popular books on natural history, and then a larger one of his called 'Homes Without Hands.' Both of these were cherished possessions. They were studied eagerly." "Outlook," 1913.

Another good book on this subject is Hornaday's "American natural history" (qj 591.97 H79).

j 811 L82ta

Saga of King Olaf, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. (In "Tales of a wayside inn," p.54-116.)

"At a pretty early age I began to read certain books of poetry, notably Longfellow's poems, 'The Saga of King Olaf,' which absorbed me. This introduced me to Scandinavian literature; and I have never lost my interest in and affection for it." "Outlook," 1913.

#### Sir Walter Scott

#### The boy's Percy.

Referring to Bishop Percy's "Reliques of ancient English poetry," Scott says, "I remember well the spot where I read these volumes for the first time...and henceforth I overwhelmed my school-fellows and all who would hearken to me, with tragical recitations from the ballads of Bishop Percy. The first time, too, I could scrape a few shillings together...I bought unto myself a copy of these beloved volumes; nor do I believe I ever read a book half so frequently, or with half the enthusiasm." Lockhart's "Life of Sir Walter Scott."

The stirring ballads of the old days of English border warfare and chivalry in "The boy's Percy" are from these volumes of Bishop Percy and are edited for boys by Sidney Lanier.

j 821.08 P42b

### j 590 W85

j H372c

#### Robert Louis Stevenson

Author of "Treasure island," and other stories

#### Guy Mannering, by Sir Walter Scott.

How the heir of Ellangowan, kidnapped by smugglers when a child, came again into his own. Meg Merrilies the gipsy, Dandie Dinmont the Scottish yeoman, Dominie Sampson, and Dirk Hatteraick the smuggler are some of the principal characters.

#### **Redgauntlet**, by Sir Walter Scott.

Tale of a Jacobite conspiracy.

#### Rob Roy, by Sir Walter Scott.

Rob Roy was a famous Highland outlaw and freebooter. The story tells of the active part he took in the Pretender's rebellion of 1715.

"How often I have read Guy Mannering, Rob Roy, or Redgauntlet, I have no means of guessing, having begun young." "Memories and portraits."

#### Henry Van Dyke

### Author of "The first Christmas tree," and other stories

#### Don Quixote, by Cervantes.

Treats of the pleasant manner of the knighting of that famous gentleman, Don Quixote, of the dreadful and never-to-be-imagined adventure of the windmills, of the extraordinary battle he waged with what he took to be a giant, and of divers other rare and notable adventures and strange enchantments which befell this valorous and witty knight-errant.

This edition is illustrated in color by Walter Crane.

#### Plutarch's lives.

One of the most famous books ever written. It tells of the lives of fifty Greek and Roman heroes and leaders from mythical times to the beginning of the Christian era. It is realistic and picturesque in style, crowded with incident and full of interesting anecdotes.

"In [these] two books I took a real and vivid interest... They seemed to open a new world to me, the world of the past, in which I could see men moving about and doing the most remarkable things." "Outlook," 1904.

#### The pirate, by Sir Walter Scott.

An account of certain remarkable incidents which took place in the wild islands of the Orkneys and Zetland.

"'Ivanhoe' and 'The Pirate' pleased me immensely." "Outlook," 1904. i 821 C68

#### Rime of the ancient mariner, by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

"It is an ancient Mariner,

And he stoppeth one of three.

'By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,

Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?'

He holds him with his glittering eye-The wedding guest stood still, And listens like a three years' child: The Mariner hath his will."

Dr. Van Dyke says that he read this with sincere joy.

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#### i 920 P72

i S431pi

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