

U 44 61-49
133

WOLFERT'S ROOST

Ä 75 2

AND

OTHER PAPERS, NOW FIRST COLLECTED.

BY

WASHINGTON IRVING.

NEW YORK:

G. P. PUTNAM & CO., 10 PARK PLACE.
1855.

Ä

CONTENTS.

	Page
WOLFERT'S ROOST,	9
THE BIRDS OF SPRING,	30
THE CREOLE VILLAGE,	38
MOUNTJOY,	49
THE BERMUDAS,	100
The Three Kings of Bermuda,	109
THE WIDOW'S ORDEAL,	115
THE KNIGHT OF MALTA,	130
The Grand Prior of Minorca,	132
A TIME OF UNEXAMPLED PROSPERITY,	151
The Great Mississippi Bubble,	154
SKETCHES IN PARIS IN 1825.—The Parisian Hotel,	192
My French Neighbor,	195
The Englishman at Paris,	198
English and French Character,	201
The Tuileries and Windsor Castle,	205
The Field of Waterloo,	209
Paris at the Restoration,	212
A CONTENTED MAN,	219
BROEK: OR THE DUTCH PARADISE,	226

	Page
GUESTS FROM GIBBET-ISLAND,	234
THE EARLY EXPERIENCES OF RALPH RINGWOOD,	249
THE SEMINOLES,	289
Origin of the White, the Red, and the Black Men,	294
The Conspiracy of Neamathla,	297
THE COUNT VAN HORN,	305
DON JUAN: A SPECTRAL RESEARCH,	322
LEGEND OF THE ENGULPHED CONVENT,	334
THE PHANTOM ISLAND,	341
The Adalantado of the Seven Cities,	344
RECOLLECTIONS OF THE ALHAMBRA,	356
The Abencerrage,	370

WOLFERT'S ROOST.

CHRONICLE I.

ABOUT five-and-twenty miles from the ancient and renowned city of Manhattan, formerly called New-Amsterdam, and vulgarly called New-York, on the eastern bank of that expansion of the Hudson, known among Dutch mariners of yore, as the Tappan Zee, being in fact the great Mediterranean Sea of the New-Netherlands, stands a little old-fashioned stone mansion, all made up of gable-ends, and as full of angles and corners as an old cocked hat. It is said, in fact, to have been modelled after the cocked hat of Peter the Headstrong, as the Escorial was modelled after the gridiron of the blessed St. Lawrence. Though but of small dimensions, yet, like many small people, it is of mighty spirit, and values itself greatly on its antiquity, being one of the oldest edifices, for its size, in the whole country. It claims to be an ancient seat of empire, I may rather say an empire in itself, and like all empires, great and small, has had its grand historical epochs. In speaking of this doughty and valorous little pile, I shall call it by its usual appellation of "The Roost;" though that is a name given to it in modern days, since it became the abode of the white man.

Its origin, in truth, dates far back in that remote region commonly called the fabulous age, in which vulgar fact becomes mystified, and tinted up with delectable fiction. The eastern shore of the Tappan Sea was inhabited in those days by an unsophisticated race, existing in all the simplicity of nature; that is to say, they lived by hunting and fishing, and recreated themselves occasionally with a little tomahawking and scalping. Each stream that flows down from the hills into the Hudson, had its petty sachem, who ruled over a hand's breadth of forest on either side, and had his seat of government at its mouth. The chieftain who ruled at the Roost, was not merely a great warrior, but a medicine-man, or prophet, or conjurer, for they all mean the same thing in Indian parlance. Of his fighting propensities, evidences still remain, in various arrow-heads of flint, and stone battle-axes, occasionally dugged up about the Roost: of his wizard powers, we have a token in a spring which wells up at the foot of the bank, on the very margin of the river, which, it is said, was gifted by him with rejuvenating powers, something like the renowned Fountain of Youth in the Floridas, so anxiously but vainly sought after by the veteran Ponce de Leon. This story, however, is stoutly contradicted by an old Dutch matter-of-fact tradition, which declares that the spring in question was smuggled over from Holland in a churn, by Femmetie Van Blarcom, wife of Goosen Garret Van Blarcom, one of the first settlers, and that she took it up by night, unknown to her husband, from beside their farm-house near Rotterdam; being sure she should find no water equal to it in the new country—and she was right.

The wizard sachem had a great passion for discussing territorial questions, and settling boundary lines, in other words, he had