

DÜRR'S COLLECTION OF STANDARD  
AMERICAN AND BRITISH  
AUTHORS.

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BY  
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JOHN BRENT.

BY  
THEODORE WINTHROP,  
AUTHOR OF "CECIL DREEME."

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# J O H N B R E N T.

A NOVEL

BY

THEODORE WINTHROP,

AUTHOR OF "CECIL DREEME."

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IN ONE VOLUME.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR.

BY GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

THEODORE WINTHROP'S life, like a fire long smouldering, suddenly blazed up into a clear, bright flame, and vanished. Those of us who were his friends and neighbors, by whose firesides he sat familiarly, and of whose life upon the pleasant Staten Island, where he lived, he was so important a part, were so impressed by his intense vitality, that his death strikes us with peculiar strangeness, like sudden winter-silence falling upon these humming fields of June.

As I look along the wooded brook-side by which he used to come, I should not be surprised if I saw that knit, wiry, light figure moving with quick, firm, leopard tread over the grass, — the keen gray eye, the clustering fair hair, the kind, serious smile, the mien of undaunted patience. If you did not know him, you would have found his greeting a little constrained, — not from shyness, but from genuine modesty and the habit of society. You would have remarked that he was silent and observant, rather than talkative; and whatever he said, however gay or grave, would have had the reserve of sadness upon which his whole character was drawn. If it were a woman who saw him for the first time, she would inevitably see him through a slight cloud of misapprehension; for the man and his manner were a little at variance. The chance is, that at the end of five minutes she would have thought him conceited.