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BY

BRET HARTE,

AUTHOR OF

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BRET HARTE.

THE name of "Bret Harte" is a household word of delightful acceptance in England as well as in America, associated as it is with the authorship of many popular writings in prose and verse. Mr. Bret Harte's position as American Consul, man of letters, and man of the world is perhaps unique in this country, where he has made personally as many friends as he has found admirers of his talent and genius.

Francis Bret Harte was born in Albany, in New York State, in the year 1839. From his father, a graduate of Union College and Professor of Greek at Albany, he received the classical education and teaching to which he is no doubt indebted for the purity and correctness of his style; from his mother, a descendant of the old Knickerbocker families, he inherited the courtesy

and elegance of his manner, which the rough, adventurous existence of his youth was unable to obliterate. That existence, with its varied experiences and picturesque hardships, is too well known and has been too accurately reflected in Bret Harte's literary work to require more than a passing mention; nor is it necessary to dwell at any length on those first marvellous tales which revealed to the world at once a new country and a new celebrity.

Bret Harte is known in all civilized countries as the author of the "Heathen Chinees," and "The Luck of Roaring Camp." He has been editor and founder of a successful magazine, and has been Professor of Belles Lettres in the University of California. He has served his country during the civil war, and in time of peace; indeed, he had achieved fame and reputation at an age when the ordinary run of men have not yet tried their power. It may be more interesting to follow him in his later career, in the years which have been almost entirely passed in Europe.