

Therefore, after conversing with my scholarly and versatile literary friend, the Rev. W. H. Withrow, A.M., whose taste and judgment I very much confided in, I concluded to abandon the larger and more elaborate project, and to cover the ground embraced in my history by a series of sketchy volumes, each one complete in itself, and saleable as an independent book, yet an essential part of a greater whole; that if I did not live to finish that whole, what I had actually accomplished would not seem a mere fragment; while each one of the sections, in each volume, would be a microcosm—a little narrative by itself and making a complete reading for a sitting, yet bearing a relation to the other sections.

This, I imagine, will be particularly the case with the first volume, which is largely made up of the "True Stories," retouched, supplemented, and wrought into a somewhat homogeneous whole. I say "somewhat," because, from the way it has come into being, it will, perhaps, be found that some parts are rather discursive and others repetitious.

As it is, the public have it. Take it, and make the most of it you can; for, on the subject of my BOY LIFE, it is all you will get—except my blessing, which you have already, and shall have. Amen.

Those who desire more of these lucubrations, relating to further stages of my humble life, will please indicate their wish to me, or to the authorities at our Publishing House, that I may know how to act in the future.

THE AUTHOR.

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