

THE
CENTENNIAL HISTORY
 OF THE
UNITED STATES,
 FROM
 THE DISCOVERY OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT
 TO
 The Close of the First Century of American Independence.

WITH the close of the FIRST HUNDRED YEARS OF OUR NATIONAL PROGRESS, and its celebration by a GRAND INTERNATIONAL CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION, a renewed and wide-spread interest is being diffused among the people in the HISTORY OF THE GREAT EVENTS which have culminated in such POWER and WEALTH as that to which our country has attained.

The author gives a clear, vivid, and brilliant narrative of the events of our history, from the discovery of the American Continent to the present day. The voyages of Columbus, the explorations of the different nations of Europe, and the wanderings of the Spaniards in quest of gold and immortal youth are told with graphic power.

Every step of our colonial history is traced with patient fidelity, and the sources of those noble, and we trust, enduring institutions which have made our country free and great, are shown with remarkable clearness. The causes of our great struggle for independence are told with a logical force and ability unsurpassed in any work of the day; and the story of that great struggle for liberty, with its triumphant issue, is in itself worth the price of the book. Then follows a clear and succinct account of the formation of the Federal Constitution; the establishment of the Union; the course of affairs until the breaking out of the Second War with England; and a full and comprehensive account of that War and its results. The history of the country from the peace of 1815 to the outbreak of the Mexican war is then given, and the thrilling story of the Mexican War is told with all the interest of a romance. The history of the Civil War is related with intense vigor, and with strict fidelity to truth. The author writes throughout with the calmness and impartiality of a historian, and pleads the cause of no party or section. He states facts, points out the lessons which they teach, and appealing to neither passion nor political feeling, trusts to the good sense of his countrymen to sustain his views.

It is a fitting time to consider the story of the past, to learn the lessons which it teaches, and to ponder the warnings which it conveys for the future. On the fourth of July, 1876, the United States of America completed the first century of their national existence. The people of this country can look back upon this period with pride, for it is a grand history—a record of the highest achievements of humanity—the noblest, most thrilling, and glorious history ever penned on earth, and yet the fact remains that the great mass of the American people are but imperfectly acquainted with it. There is a real need that we should know better than we do what we have done. It is only by a thoughtful study of our past that we can safely provide for the perils of the future. We have triumphed over adversity, and we are now called upon to bear the test of success. The author has devoted a life of study and research to his task, and has produced a work that will take rank as the *Standard History* of the United States.

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