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OUT WITH THE OLD VOYAGERS

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER



THE earliest stories of sea-travel reach back to a remote past; to a time when there was no clear dividing line between fact and fiction. What was meant to be believed was often the wildest romance, and what reads to us like a fairy tale often contains much that was true.

The story of the Argonauts is one of the oldest of these. Greek boys loved to hear of the quest which sent this crew of heroes rowing across the seas, through cloud and sunshine, to strange, far-off shores and cities; and English boys, since Charles Kingsley retold the story for them, have loved it too. To what extent the story was based on an actual voyage, we cannot tell.