

(Concluded.)

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|------|--------------------------|---|--|
| 727. | The Coal Strike.         | { | Source of our coal supply.<br>Demands of the strikers.<br>President Roosevelt's action.<br>Settlement of the strike. |
| 728. | The Republic<br>of Cuba. | { | Withdrawal of United States troops<br>Independent government organized.  |
| 729. | Treaty with Cuba.        |   |  |
| 730. | Alaska.                  | { | Gold discovered.<br>The boundary dispute.<br>Treaty with Great Britain.  |
| 731. | The Isthmian Canal.      | { | The two routes.<br>Decision of Congress.   |
| 732. | Expositions.             | { | Inter-State at Charleston.<br>Louisiana Purchase at St. Louis.   |
| 733. | Oil Wells in Texas.      |   |  |

## APPENDIX A.

## AN OUTLINE OF AMERICAN LITERATURE.

BY LEONARD LEMMON.

**The Father of American Literature.** — *Washington Irving* (1783–1859), our first great author, was born in New York during the Revolutionary War, and was named for the commander of the American forces. His family was well-to-do, and Irving had an easy time. He spent some holidays exploring the country of the Hudson. He made an extended tour of Europe. He studied some, and read a good deal. Solely as a means of amusement, he began to write. His first book, "A History of New York by Diedrich Knickerbocker," presents a humorous, burlesque view of the old Dutch life of New Amsterdam. When Irving was thirty-



Washington Irving.



five years old, the Irving firm failed in business, and Washington turned to literature to make a living. "The Sketch Book" was the first fruit of this serious attempt at authorship. It contained "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," now two of the best known short stories in our literature. From this time, for forty years he was busy writing books. Many of these books were written about subjects of particular interest to Americans. The "Life of Columbus," "Life of Washington," "Astoria," "Captain Bonneville," are of the American series. "Alhambra," "Conquest of Granada," "Legends of the Conquest of Spain," are books about Spain. Besides these are "Mahomet and His Successors," "Life of Goldsmith," and others.

In representing our country at foreign courts, Irving spent many years in Europe; but the latter part of his life was passed at "Sunnyside," his estate on the Hudson.

Because Irving was the first native American to win great distinction as an author, he is called the "Father of American Literature." It was fitting that the namesake of the "Father of our Country" should be the "father" of our literature.

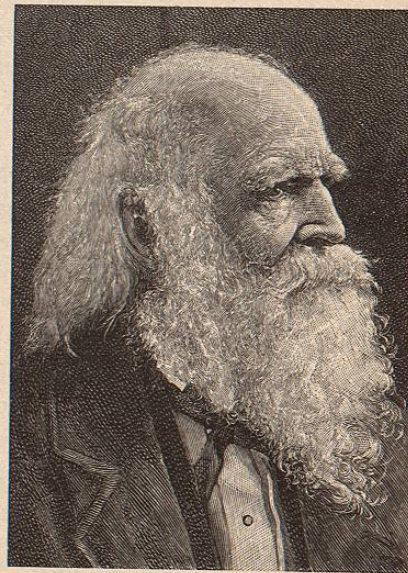
**The First Great Novelist.** — *James Fenimore Cooper* (1789–1851) passed his boyhood in a pioneer home on the frontier of New York. He spent nearly three years at Yale College, and subsequently more than three years in the U. S. navy. He was led to write his first book by accident. He was so dissatisfied with an English novel that had fallen into his hands that he asserted that he could write a better one. He wrote "Precaution," to prove that he could. This novel was a poor one, but it seemed to satisfy Cooper, for he persevered in the work so lightly begun, and before his death he wrote more than thirty novels. Several of these stories exhibit the pioneer life of the wilderness with which he grew familiar in his boyhood. They are "The Deerslayer," "The Pathfinder," "The Last of

the Mohicans," "The Pioneers," "The Prairie"; and from the name of their hero they are called the "Leather-Stocking Series."

But Cooper had spent several years as a sailor, and he wrote a series of sea stories. "The Pilot," "The Red Rover," "The Two Admirals," are well-known sea tales. "The Spy" and "Lionel Lincoln" are stories of the Revolution.

The "Leather-Stocking Series" gives a romantic view of Indian and pioneer adventure, and are distinctively American. The sea tale was at that day as fresh a field as the Indian life itself. Cooper ranks as the first great American novelist.

**The Father of American Poetry.** — *William Cullen Bryant* (1794–1878) was born in Massachusetts, and spent his early life on a farm. He loved books and nature, and was a very precocious scholar. His first important poem, "Thanatopsis," was written when the author was but nineteen. When it was printed, four years later, it made the author famous. Though Bryant wrote many poems after this, he never wrote a better one. Late in life, he made excellent translations of the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey."



William Cullen Bryant.

In 1825 Bryant removed to New York, and lived there the remainder of his life, more than half a century. He was for



many years the editor of a daily newspaper. He was an eminent and a model citizen. He was our first great poet.

**Minor Contemporaries.** — Friends of Irving in New York were two poets, *Fitz-Greene Halleck* and *Joseph Rodman Drake*. The first was the author of a large volume of poems, of which "Marco Bozzaris" seems to have the most vitality; the second was the author of a long poem, "The Culprit Fay," written to prove that a successful poem, based on American scenery and with an American movement, was possible. Drake's "American Flag" was a very popular poem.

**A Later Contemporary.** — *Edgar Allan Poe* (1809-1849) was born twenty-six years after Irving and fifteen years after Bryant; but Irving survived him ten years and Bryant twenty-nine, so that all his writing was done during the lives of these first great writers, though they began before he did and continued after he was dead.

Poe was left an orphan in his babyhood, and was adopted by Mr. John Allan, a wealthy Virginia gentleman. He attended school in England and at the University of Virginia and at West Point. He early began to write poetry, and his first volume, "Al Aaraaf," was published when its author was but twenty years old. Poetry was not very remunerative and Poe, who had quarreled with his foster-father, was very poor. With the tale, "A MS. Found in a Bottle," he won a hundred-dollar prize. From this good start his fortunes improved. He became the editor of "The Southern Literary Messenger," a magazine published at Richmond. He was afterward editor or chief contributor to several other magazines. He wrote a large number of short tales. His critical writings make a large volume. No American poems have been more widely read than some that he wrote. He was an important figure in the literary life of the time.

Of his prose tales, "The Black Cat," "The Gold Bug," "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," are the most widely known. They have been translated into several European languages. Of his poems, "The Raven," "The Bells," and "Annabel Lee," are familiar in every household.

*Nathaniel Parker Willis* was a contemporary and a friend of Poe, and was engaged with him for a short time in editing a magazine, "The Mirror." Willis, like Poe, wrote both prose and poetry. "Absalom," "Jephthah's Daughter," and some other poems on Bible subjects were once popular.

**The Golden Age.** — In different states and at about the same time — there being not more than six years from the birth of the oldest to that of the youngest — and about a decade after Bryant's birth, five writers who have produced the great body of our pure literature and have raised it to its highest mark of renown, were born into the world. These writers are *Ralph Waldo Emerson*, *Nathaniel Hawthorne*, *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*, *John Greenleaf Whittier*, and *Oliver Wendell Holmes*. Fortune often threw these writers together. They were strong personal friends and all friends of Bryant, and they encouraged and applauded each other's work. They differ essentially in their several writings. Emerson was a sage devoted to plain living and high thinking; Hawthorne was one of the world's greatest romancers; Longfellow was a singer who loved the sweet and joyous of life; Whittier was by turns a crusader and a pastoral poet; Holmes was a humorist and a satirist. When these writers were in the fullness of their powers and their genius most creative, then, beyond question, was the Golden Age of American letters. There have been great achievements since their time, but the literary heavens have never been bright with stars since their lights were dimmed.



**The Sage of Concord.**—*Emerson* (1803–1882) was born in Boston. He was well taught at home when a boy, but at fourteen he entered Harvard College. He studied theology and became a minister, with a charge in Boston. He soon gave up preaching and removed to Concord, where he spent the remainder of his life. He devoted his time to writing and



Ralph Waldo Emerson.

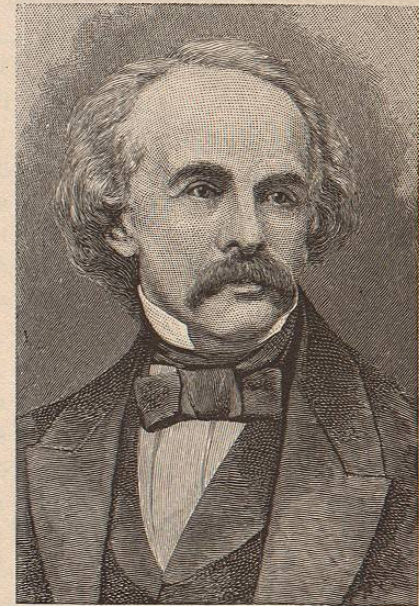
lecturing. He delivered lectures in most of the cities of the east, and in many of them he lectured several times. He was the first to show to Americans the possibilities and the importance of the lecture platform. His prose writings are in the form of essays. His first book, "Nature" (1839), created a deep impression, and heralded a new and strong literary light. His works include "Representative Men" (1850), "English Traits" (1856), "The

Conduct of Life" (1860), a volume of poems, etc. His poems are of the philosophic type, but his "Concord Hymn," referring to the Revolutionary battle at Concord Bridge, won a popular success.

Emerson had a great influence upon the thought of his time. There were a number of writers who made his works their chief study, and were proud to call themselves his disciples. *H. D. Thoreau* was one of these disciples. For a time he lived alone in a cabin in the forest studying and writing about nature. *Margaret Fuller* and *A. B. Alcott* were other writers who were followers of Emerson, but their literary merit is small.

**The Great Romancer.**—*Hawthorne* (1804–1864) was born in Salem, Mass. He was graduated from Bowdoin College. He was much alone in his boyhood and youth, and the solitude seemed to suit him. He began writing early, but received little encouragement from the public. To use his own expression he "was for years the obscurest man of letters in America."

The historian Bancroft, collector of the port of Boston, appointed Hawthorne to a minor position in the service. Later, Hawthorne became surveyor at the Salem Custom House. When his schoolmate and friend, Franklin Pierce, became president, he was appointed consul to Liverpool. He spent several years abroad in England and in Italy. He returned to America in 1860, and took up residence in Concord. Hawthorne's first success was gained with



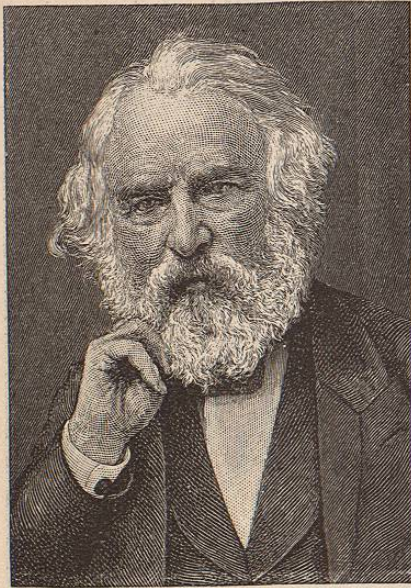
Nathaniel Hawthorne.

"The Scarlet Letter" (1850), although he had previously published "Twice-Told Tales" (1837) and "Mosses from an Old Manse" (1846). "The Blithedale Romance" (1852) and "The Marble Faun" are later romances, published during his life. After his death, several studies for romances were published. His "English Note Book," "Italian Note Book," and "Our Old Home" are records of his observations abroad.



He was a master of pure, simple English. He is America's greatest imaginative writer.

**The Singer.** — *Longfellow* (1807–1882) was born in Maine. He attended school at Bowdoin College, where he and Hawthorne were friends and classmates. After some years of study abroad, he became a professor in Bowdoin. From 1835 to 1854 he was professor of Modern Languages in Harvard College. The termination of his professorship did not terminate his residence in Cambridge. For nearly fifty years, till his death, the house Washington had occupied as headquarters was his home. He lived a quiet, uneventful life, brightened often by trips to Europe.



Henry W. Longfellow.

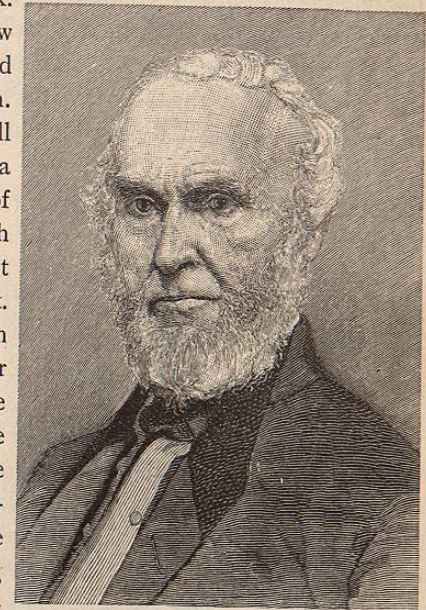
His correct and peaceful life is reflected in his poetry. He writes of the affections, and he expresses refined sentiments; he touches the heart with pathetic incidents; he gently urges us to the better life. His verse is always smooth and musical.

Many of his poems attest his love for children. The long poem, "Evangeline," founded upon the forcible removal of the Acadians, is a classic in our language. The story is a touching one, and the treatment is musical and appropriate. "Hiawatha" is, perhaps, the poet's best work. Its noble conception is

entirely original. The form of the verse is also original, and is admirably adapted to its use. The poem presents the ideal of Indian life. The author translated Dante's "Divine Comedy," spending some years upon it.

**The Crusader.** — *Whittier* (1807–1892) was a New England boy, born on a farm in Massachusetts. He was familiar with poverty and hard work.

He had access to but few books, and he received but a poor education. But, with the chances all against him, he became a famous poet. A copy of the poems of Burns which fell into his hands kept the poetic fire alight. His first printed poem appeared in a local paper — a paper that has since become historic. The editor, interested in the poem, sought the acquaintance of the poet. He found a youth ploughing in the field. The acquaintance so begun ripened



John Greenleaf Whittier.

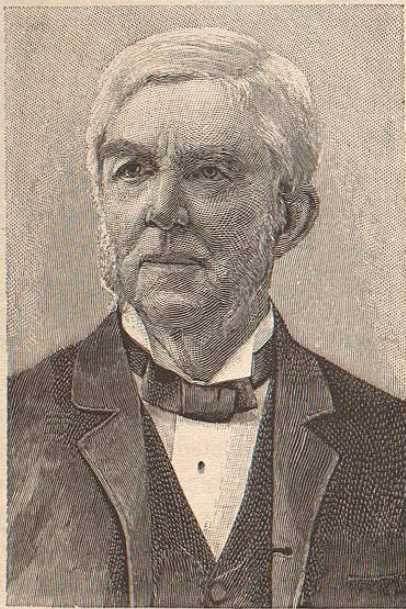
into friendship. The editor, Garrison, was an ardent advocate of the abolition of slavery. Whittier adopted the same views, and in subsequent years edited or helped to edit several of the abolition papers. In his youth he had supported himself by teaching school or by making shoes, but his reputation grew, so that subsequent to the War he was able to support himself with his pen.



Whittier believed in the extreme theories of the Abolitionists. Most of his early poetry was written to further the cause of emancipation. He was willing to sacrifice beauty of composition to the needs of the cause, and often did so. "Voices of Freedom" and "In War Time" belong to this early poetry written in advocacy of freedom for the slave.

After the war was over and the negroes were freed, Whittier became the poet of peaceful, happy, rural life. "Snow-Bound" (1866) is one of the most nearly perfect idylls in our literature. "The Tent on the Beach," "Among the Hills," and many other poems reflect the same love for the simple, serene, isolated life of the New England people of some years ago.

**The Humorist.** — *Dr. Holmes* (1809–1894) was born in Cambridge, Mass. He was graduated from Harvard, with



Oliver Wendell Holmes.

first honors, in his twentieth year. He began the study of law, but abandoned it for medicine. He spent three years abroad studying anatomy. In 1836 he was appointed to a professorship in Dartmouth Medical School. He removed to Boston in 1840; he made this city his home for more than fifty years. In 1847 he was appointed professor of anatomy and physiology in the Harvard Medical School. He wrote many articles

on subjects connected with his profession and was an authority in it. But most of his writings are of an entirely different kind. He wrote a large volume of poems, two novels, "Elsie Venner," and "The Guardian Angel," "The Autocrat" series, — running comments upon a variety of topics, — consisting of "The Autocrat at the Breakfast Table," "The Professor at the Breakfast Table," and "The Poet at the Breakfast Table." He is the author of two or three of our most celebrated humorous poems and of many that rank second only to his own best. "The Wonderful One-Hoss Shay," "How the Old Horse won the Bet," "The Hot Season," "The Comet" are among these humorous poems. But he has serious and pathetic poems as well. "The Last Leaf" and "The Chambered Nautilus" are beautiful in sentiment and perfect in workmanship. He was an extremely patriotic American, and a large number of his poems were written in celebration of national holidays, ceremonies, or events. "Old Ironsides," the first of his poems to gain wide popularity, saved the ship *Constitution* from destruction by the government.

**Our Representative Man of Letters.** — *James Russell Lowell* (1819–1891) was born in Cambridge ten years after the birth of Holmes, twelve years after the birth of Longfellow. He was fifteen years younger than Hawthorne, sixteen years younger than Emerson, twenty-five years younger than Bryant. He was, therefore, near to the first great group of writers, but not of it. He was graduated from Harvard in 1838. When Longfellow resigned his professorship in Harvard (1855) Lowell was chosen to fill it. He was the first editor of the "Atlantic Monthly," his connection with it lasting from 1852 to 1862. For nearly ten years he was one of the editors of the "North American Review." From 1877 to 1880 he represented the United States at the court of Spain. In 1880 he was appointed minister to England; he held the position for five years.