

Emeline G. Crommelin



*Famous Legends
Adapted for
Children*

Emeline G. Crommelin

Famous Legends Adapted for Children



Published by Good Press, 2022

goodpress@okpublishing.info

EAN 4064066368654

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

ROBIN HOOD

I. IN SHERWOOD FOREST

II. MAID MARIAN

III. ROBIN HOOD MADE LEADER

IV. ALAN DALE

V. LITTLE JOHN

VI. FRIAR TUCK

VII. THE BARON

VIII. THE BISHOP

IX. KING RICHARD

X. DEATH OF ROBIN HOOD

KING ARTHUR

ARTHUR MADE KING

THE SWORD EXCALIBUR

GUINEVERE MADE QUEEN

DEATH OF KING ARTHUR

ROLAND

ROLAND SEES THE KING

ROLAND BECOMES A KNIGHT

ROLAND LOSES HIS LIFE

ST. DENIS

THE CID

THE UNKNOWN ISLAND

I. THE PILOT'S STORY

II. THE YOUNG CAVALIER

III. A STRANGER IN HIS HOME

IV. ST. BRANDAN'S ISLAND

V. THE FAITHFUL WATCHER

BRIAN BORU

THE MONK AND THE BIRD'S SONG

SIGURD

I. THE YOUNG HERO

II. THE STORY OF REGIN

III. SIGURD SLAYS THE DRAGON

IV. SIGURD FINDS THE WARRIOR-MAIDEN

FRITHIOF

I. FRITHIOF AND INGEBORG

II. THE SWORD, THE RING, AND THE SHIP

III. ONLY THE SUBJECT OF A KING

IV. A VOYAGE FOR GOLD

V. A BEGGAR AT THE KING'S FEAST

VI. A NOBLE YOUTH

VII. THE VIKING'S REWARD

WILLIAM TELL

THE BELL OF ATRI

KING ROBERT OF SICILY

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN

THE EMPEROR'S SLEEP

THE LORELEI

INDEX OF PROPER NAMES

INTRODUCTION

Table of Contents

This little book of famous legends needs no introduction beyond a word of emphasis as to its educational value.

It is needless to point out, perhaps, that these stories—handed down from father to son and circulated in minstrelsy before the days of written history—have been almost the sole preservatives of the romance, chivalry, and splendor of the Middle Ages.

Out of the wealth of myths and traditions my selections have been purposely diverse, that as far as possible each nation and each people might be represented in this marshaling of the picturesque in legendary history.

And thus may the young reader have an insight into what, in the case of each nation, has become of the very fiber of its literature, art, and music.

In some cases, where the beauty depends largely on the literary style and treatment, direct transcripts from the best sources have been made; but for the most part I have reduced the stories to the simplest terms consistent with clearness and human interest. Among the sources drawn upon are Guerber's "Legends of the Middle Ages" and "Myths of Northern Lands," Chenoweth's "Stories of the Saints," Washington Irving's "The Phantom Island," Baldwin's "The Story of Roland," Browning's poems, Longfellow's poems, Malory's "Boys' King Arthur," Ragozin's "Frithjof" and "Roland," etc., etc.

It is the author's hope and belief that this volume will help to inculcate in the child a love for good reading, quicken his imagination, and broaden his horizon.

EMELINE G. CROMMELIN.

FEBRUARY 10th, 1904.

ROBIN HOOD

Table of Contents

..... I think there is not one,
But he of Robin Hood hath heard and Little John,
And to the end of time the tales shall ne'er be done
Of Scarlock, George a Green, and Much the Miller's
son,
Of Tuck, the merry friar, which many a sermon made
In praise of Robin Hood, his outlaws and their trade.

DRAYTON.

Even the wild outlaw, in his forest-walk,
Keeps yet some touch of discipline.

OLD PLAY.

I. IN SHERWOOD FOREST

Table of Contents

It was when Richard I, called the Lion-hearted, was king of England that Robin Hood and his merry men lived in Sherwood Forest.

Some people say that when Robin Hood was young he recklessly spent the money he had inherited; and, being an adventurous youth, he fled to the forest that ever since has been associated with his name.

Whether Robin was forced to live there or not, he loved its freedom and wild beauty better than anything else in the world. He loved its thickly wooded hills and valleys, its sparkling streams, and its carpet of bright green; its flowers of every color, and the songs of its birds. Robin was a mere lad when he first made the forest his home. As he grew older, one after another joined him, until he had more than a hundred men, who not only obeyed him, but loved him as well. It was not long before Robin Hood was looked upon as a kind of king, and he and his men defied the laws that the real kings made. They spent much of their time in stopping travelers on their way, and robbing them, or killing the king's deer, with which Sherwood Forest abounded.

It was on this game that the poor Saxons had lived when they were driven into the forest and hemmed in by their enemies. The Normans, who ruled the land, made such severe laws that it was dangerous to hunt or kill the deer, which had been a common dish for the Saxons before they were conquered.

Now Robin Hood was not altogether bad, for he did many things that were to his credit. He always spared the poor and the weak, never allowed a woman to be oppressed, and divided all booty with his men.

II. MAID MARIAN

Table of Contents

If you have heard of Robin Hood, you have heard also of Maid Marian, the fair Saxon maid, whom every one loved. She, too, loved the beauty and freedom of the wild woods—the birds, the flowers, and the streams. It was amid such scenes that she had lived, from the time she was a child. She had learned from her mother how to dress wounds, and she knew a great deal about the herbs in the forest which had been her school.

Maid Marian was often mistress of the sports in her woodland home. Indeed, she handled the bow with such skill that she could shoot a running deer or flying bird, and thought it no uncommon feat.

Robin and Marian met often in their beloved Sherwood Forest. Often they took long walks together, when the hunt was over. Often they sat beneath the old oaks that met above their heads. Often Robin sang some old Saxon song to the notes of Marian's harp. Thus it was that, amid the beauty and the music of the grand old forest, the youth and the maiden grew to love each other. And when deep sorrow came to Marian, no one spoke such gentle words of comfort as Robin.

Marian and her father had not joined in any of the merry times among the hunters since her mother's death, until the day that was the beginning of a new grief. Their friends welcomed them with great joy, and Marian's father, who was a minstrel, was asked to sing for the company. Taking the harp from his daughter, the minstrel began an old Saxon

war-song, in which he told how the Saxons once owned the beautiful land, and hunted the deer in the vast forest as much as they pleased, till the Normans came and drove them from their cities, and made severe laws for those who lingered near their old homes; and how their unrelenting conquerors still wrought hardships upon them by killing the beasts and birds that filled the forest.

The song closed with words of sorrow for the friends who had been taken away and would never return.

It was in this fashion that the wandering minstrels used to chronicle in song the mighty deeds of friend and foe. Had it not been for them, many of our most delightful stories, which were remembered from father to son, would have been lost. When people knew how to write these tales, the old minstrels were needed no longer.

The last of all the bards was he,
Who sung of Border chivalry;
For, well-a-day their date was fled,
His tuneful brethren all were dead;
And he, neglected and oppress'd,
Wished to be with them, and at rest.
A wandering harper, scorn'd and poor,
He begged his bread from door to door,
And tuned, to please a peasant's ear,
The harp a king had loved to hear.

SIR WALTER SCOTT—*Lay of the Last Minstrel*.

Just as Marian's father finished the last words of his song, an arrow came whizzing through the air, and struck the

harp. This was the beginning of an attack by the foresters, in which Marian's father was killed.

It was not long after this that Robin's father was slain by one of the foresters, and Robin declared he would have revenge. He knew to whom the arrow belonged, for it was marked with a crown between the feathers. Taking it in his hand, he said:

"I shall never rest until I have found the owner of this arrow, and avenged my father's death."

His mother, who was overcome by the loss of her husband, soon followed him, and Marian and Robin were both without father or mother.

III. ROBIN HOOD MADE LEADER

[Table of Contents](#)

The king had heard so much about Robin Hood killing his deer and defying his foresters, that he sent the sheriff to capture the bold outlaw without delay. But Robin was too much for the sheriff, who lost his life by a well-aimed arrow from Robin's bow. After this sheriff was buried, a man whom Robin had caught and bound in the forest was appointed in his place.

The condition of the poor Saxons seemed to grow ever worse; and Robin was anxious to find out for himself just how affairs stood. So he disguised himself as a beggar, and went to a part of the forest where the Saxons were cutting wood for the abbeys.

He begged the men to give him something to do. They told him to go to the sheriff, if he would feed himself and a Norman.



Robin Hood.

“Bad times these are, indeed,” said Robin, “when a Saxon works that a Norman may eat and play.”

“Yes,” answered one of the wood-cutters, “but there are worse times coming.”

Many encounters between the oppressors and the oppressed followed. Finally, Robin Hood, who had been so successful in fighting the enemy, was looked upon as a powerful leader among the Saxons. They hoped he would be able to free them from the rule of the Normans. At last a number of them held a meeting, and decided to build a house in a secluded part of the forest. The house was to be well protected, and surrounded by a moat, or ditch filled with water, and to be entered by ladders only.

Then Robin Hood was chosen leader of the band, because he was the most skilful with his bow, and the most popular with the people.

The men promised, on Robin’s bow, to be true to him and to one another; to obey all his orders, and keep secret all he told them.

Then Robin made them promise never to rob the poor nor trouble the weak, but to help them if need be; never to strike a Saxon, unless struck first by him; never to harm women or children; and, last of all, to keep only what they needed of the booty, and to give the rest to the poor and needy.

It will be interesting to know how one after another joined this little band in the forest, whose names were associated with their famous leader ever after.