



A History of the United States and Its People (Classic Reprint)

Edward Eggleston

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PREFACE.

ONE of our American humorists has said that it is better not to know so much than to know so many things that are not true.

Errors accepted in childhood become articles of faith, and are not easily got rid of. The absence from this book of certain well-worn fables, which have served more than one generation of American school-children for historic facts, will be regretted, perhaps, on sentimental grounds. It does not seem worth while, however, to keep current in elementary books statements which every sound historical scholar rejects. No work of history ever yet escaped error, but I have at least tried to make this a genuine history, in harmony with the best historical scholarship of the time. Many laborious years passed in the critical study of original printed and manuscript authorities for the history of American institutions and American life have perhaps given the author of this history some right to speak with assurance on questions relating

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Thomas Baxter:

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