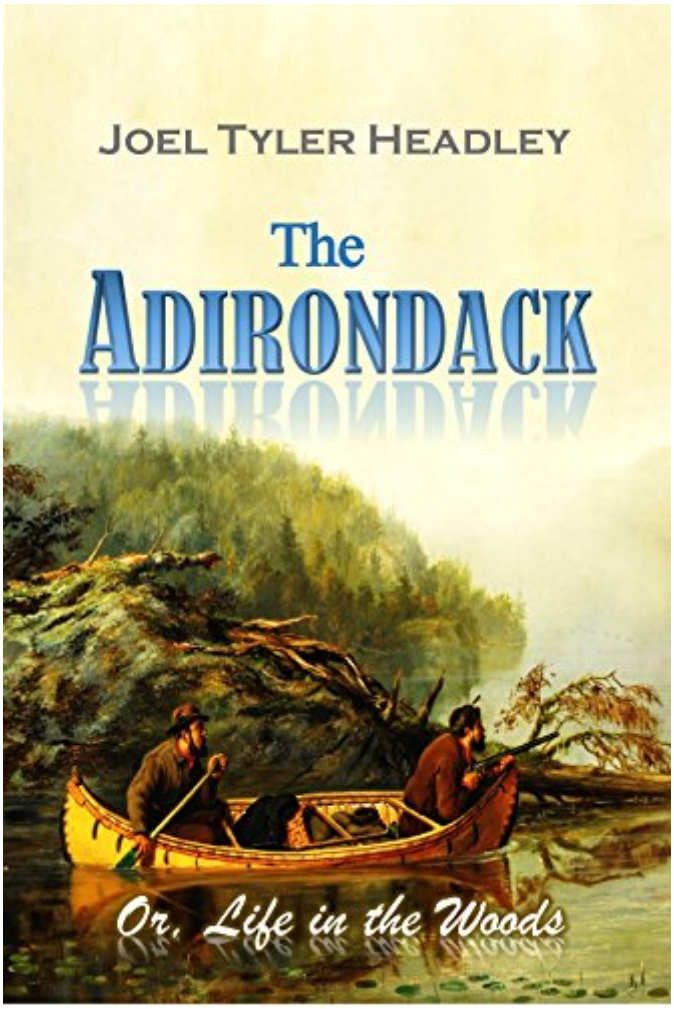
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The Adirondack, Or, Life In The Woods (1861)



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“We have to thankÃ¢â ¬Â• Headley Ã¢â ¬Å“for the agreeable hours passedÃ¢â ¬Â• reading his Ã¢â ¬Å“charming lettersÃ¢â ¬Â• written in a Ã¢â ¬Å“graceful style Ã¢â ¬Â¦ admirably adaptedÃ¢â ¬Â• providing Ã¢â ¬Å“a graphic and pleasing accountÃ¢â ¬Â• ofÃ¢â ¬Â• his Ã¢â ¬Å“personal narrative and lively incidents of a Ã¢â ¬ËœLife in the Woods.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ We commend our readersÃ¢â ¬Â• to his book. - The United States Democratic ReviewHeadley's "letters will be found sprightly and amusing." -The Southern Quarterly ReviewJoel Tyler Headley (1813 Ã¢â ¬â œ 1897) was an American clergyman, historian, author, newspaper editor and politician who served as Secretary of State of New York; in 1861 he published "The Adirondack, Or, Life in the Woods."MR. HEADLEY is one of those light and lively sketchers. He sees a lake, and he whips out his line and fly, as a trout fisher. Hark! a hound opens, and he gets his gun in readiness. In a moment, hit or miss, he blazes away in a fever of excitement, and as the deer bounds away in safety, he begins to moralize upon the length of his legs and the beauty of his antlers. Anon, a bird pipes up a merry carol, and he throws himself down to listen. It reminds him of his youth, and he meditates the flight of years and the vanities of life. The cry of his comrades startles him from his meditations, and he sings supper in full chorus with the rest. Thus he goes from morn to night and from night to morning. A mountain rises before him and he talks big about its majesty and sublimity. The river winds below, and he speaks of its serpentlike flow, glistening clear and sunnily throughout the plain. He launches into his boat, and he recollects and tells you of some glorious upset he has had or witnessed. He darts upon the silent shore, and its solitude reminds him that he is no longer in the crowded city, and that he has reason to be thankful for it. He makes an admirable cockney in the woods, and betrays himself at every instant; but he is so good natured, and so lively, so full of the neck or nothing temper, that goes forward, in devil-may-care fashion, no matter who pays the piper, that we slap him on the shoulder affectionately, even while we laugh at his absurdities.Headley writes:"THE letters in this volume embrace two different summers which I spent in the forest. An attack on the brain first drove me from the haunts of men to seek mental repose and physical strength in the woods. The decision of an able physician, which was that I "must go where a printed page could not meet my eye, and I should be forced to take constant exercise in the open air," impelled me to undertake at first what two years after I prosecuted with pleasure. Thus much for the reasons which first induced me to penetrate the pathless and unknown wilderness of central New York. I publish the results of my two trips."

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