

**AS SEEN FROM THE
RANKS; A BOY IN
THE CIVIL WAR**

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As Seen from the Ranks; A Boy in the Civil War by Charles E. Benton

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CHARLES E. BENTON

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THE CIVIL WAR**

AS SEEN FROM THE RANKS

A BOY IN THE CIVIL WAR

BY

CHARLES E. BENTON

Of the One Hundred and Fiftieth New York State Volunteers

"Which . . . I myself saw, and of which I was a . . . part."

Essex, II, v-vi.

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
NEW YORK AND LONDON
The Knickerbocker Press

1902

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TO THE FAITHFUL COUPLE WHO
WAITED IN HOPE AND TRUST, AND
ONE OF WHOM PASSED TO THE OTHER SHORE
WHILE THEIR BOY WAS ON HIS WAY HOME,
THIS VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY
DEDICATED BY THE AUTHOR



PREFACE

THIS is not a history in any sense, and it can hardly be called a story of the war, which was the greatest war of the age. There have been many wars of longer duration, and there have been slaughterings of weaker races by stronger ones: but this was, from the first, a death grapple between two civilizations represented by branches of the same dominant race, and for four long years the echoes of the picket's rifle never ceased. The desperate and heroic character of the contest is attested by the high proportion of casualties in both armies, which were far in excess of those of any modern European war.

As those who took part in it are fast passing away, I am minded to sketch at random a few recollections of events which came under my own observation and touched my own experience, believing that the impressions which events make upon any personality

have a certain value in themselves. In these sketches I have had constantly in mind that large portion of the public—and may it ever grow larger—who have never witnessed scenes of war, and have written for them rather than for veterans, aiming to present in a series of pen pictures the drama of the civil war as seen from the ranks.





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