

**ROMANCE DUST FROM  
THE HISTORIC PLACER.  
[NEW YORK-1851]**

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Romance Dust from the Historic Placer. [New York-1851] by William Starbuck Mayo

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**WILLIAM STARBUCK MAYO**

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THE HISTORIC PLACER.  
[NEW YORK-1851]**



*Helen. Starbuck Mayo*

ROMANCE DUST

FROM

*Library of  
CALIFORNIA*

THE HISTORIC PLACER.

BY

WILLIAM STARBUCK MAYO, M. D.

AUTHOR OF "KALOO LAH," "THE BERBER," "ILLUSTRATIONS OF  
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY," &c. &c. &c.

NEW-YORK:  
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1851.

TO THE  
OFFICE OF THE  
CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year of our Lord 1851, by  
WILLIAM STARBUCK MAYO, in the Clerk's office of the District Court  
for the Southern District of New-York.

.....  
Stereotyped and Printed

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35 Ann, corner of Nassau-st.  
.....

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## P R E F A C E .



“Romance Dust from the Historic Placer! A far-fetched title!”

True, it was brought, after many excursions of fancy round the world, and round the world in search of a name that would exactly hit every reader's taste, from no less distant a land than the new El Dorado. If you knew how difficult it is sometimes to find an expressive and original title for a book of this kind—a book which does not necessarily suggest a title from itself—you would not object to the distance. Picking up perfectly fitting and taking titles, is about as easy as picking up gold purses and diamond rings from the pavements of New-York or London: such things do exist, but fifty chances to one, you will find some sharp-eyed or quick-fancied fellow is before-hand



with you, and has them snugly stowed away in his pockets or pages.

But, perhaps, it is not the distance from which my unlucky specimen comes, that you object to! No; it is not so much that, but "you don't like to see an author rush across the Isthmus of propriety, in his agony to avoid the Atlantic of common place, and plunging into the Pacific of novelty, bring up some miserable metaphorical nondescript, instead of a pearl of purity and price." Certainly not, but it must be recollected—still sticking to a California figure—that the best divers in the Gulf cannot always be sure of their oysters, and that when they find no pearls, they content themselves with the *nacre*—they bring home the shells—and the shells "pay." Now, this specimen may not be of the clearest water, but I am induced to think, that upon opening the following pages, you will open the metaphor, and find, if not a true pearl, at least mother o' pearl enough for a very decent handle to the book.

So much for the name, about which I should have said nothing, had I not received an intimation from a most distinguished literary authority, that my title

smacked of affectation, and was therefore not in the best taste. Unluckily, it was already printed in the running head to the pages, and could not be changed.

Two or three of the shorter articles were prepared long ago; the others have been recently written, partly to use up a portion of the historical materials left over from *Kaloolah* and *The Berber*; partly as a diversion to more serious labor, and partly to keep afloat in the ocean of print until such time as a bark of more pretension is ready to be launched.

# DON SEBASTIAN.

A TALE FROM THE CHRONICLES OF PORTUGAL.

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## CHAPTER I.

- "Gallant and gay in Lisbon's bay, with streamers flaunting wide,
- "Upon the gleaming waters, Sebastian's galleys ride,
- "His valorous armada, (was never nobler sight)
- "Hath young Sebastian marshalled against the Moorish might."

In the year 1125 the Moorish dominion in Portugal received its death-blow from the hands of Alphonso I. in the bloody field of Ourique. The Moors, however, continued the desperate struggle for many years, until, in the time of Alphonso III. they were expelled from their last strongholds in the province of Algarve, and the kingdom, following the example of its neighbor Spain, was purged from the presence of the infidel, and restored to Christian rule. The expulsion of the Moors, however, by no means lessened the enmities, or closed the contests between the followers of the crescent and the cross; and the chronicles of two centuries of unceasing warfare by land and sea, attest on every page the intensity of their mutual hate. The