

**TRUE STORIES FROM NEW
ENGLAND HISTORY, 1620-
1803; GRANDFATHER'S
CHAIR; PP. 1-335**

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True Stories from New England History, 1620-1803; Grandfather's Chair; pp. 1-335 by
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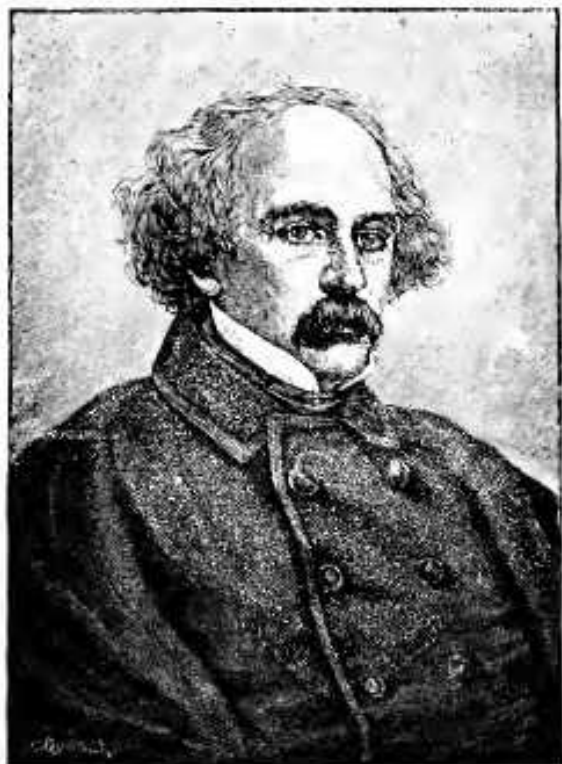
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NEW ENGLAND HISTORY
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BY
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

GRANDFATHER'S CHAIR

EDITED WITH NOTES AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

BY
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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

A BIOGRAPHER of Hawthorne says, "To please a child is warrant enough for any work." While the story of "Grandfather's Chair" is not literature in the high sense that most of Hawthorne's work is, and while he did not claim for this work any merit much above hack work, it certainly is a most delightful story for the young, and a very suggestive work to put into the hands of children to open their minds to a view of our early history. It is, of course, not comprehensive enough to make a complete grammar school history, but it is held by many writers on pedagogy that the best introduction to a study of history is to cultivate in the child an historical sense, an appreciation of the occurrence, or sequence, of events. This does not

need to be done in a philosophical way so much as in a story way, in interesting details, in salient events of historic importance. Hawthorne has grasped this pedagogical truth in a masterly manner, and has given us a view of early New England life which is quite ample for the ordinary fifth, sixth, or seventh grade pupil before he takes up the more serious work of the usual grammar school history. The editor has no dogmatic suggestions as to the best way to use the book; it may be used just as reader, letting the pupil absorb what he may, or as a more serious study in the way of formal recitations, but in his judgment the best method is to use it simply for its value as a story, in the hope that it may inspire the young reader with a love for history, make him appreciate some of the struggles of his forefathers, and give him a graphic account of the life, difficulties, and environment of early colonial days.

The biographical sketch is considered ample for the age of children who will read this book, and the notes at the foot of the page are for the most part simple interpretations of difficult words or expressions, so that by reference to them the ordinary fifth or sixth grade pupil may read the book profitably and intelligently.

H. H. K.

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS,
June, 1904.

BIOGRAPHY OF HAWTHORNE

ONE need not go out of America to find much of historic interest. It is true that we cannot count the years of our history by as many centuries as the Englishman can, but nevertheless, in many of the New England towns, interesting events occurred which date back nearly three centuries. Boston, Concord, and Lexington are full of spots made historic by our Revolutionary War, while Salem is not less intimately connected with interesting events of our early history.

Salem was one of the first places settled in Massachusetts, and at one time was the most important sea-coast town in America, excelling even New York and Boston as a town of commercial importance. More than a hundred years ago this old town was a famous place for fishermen and merchants. From this port vessels sailed to all known parts of the world, and the