"The story of Toby", a sequel to "Typee"

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Accessibility
The Story of Toby, a Sequel to Typee

WHEN Herman Melville finished composing the Sequel to Typee, after a reunion with his shipmate Toby Greene in July, 1846, it was incorporated in the American revised edition published in the month following. This constitutes the first printing anywhere of its complete text. Subsequently the Sequel made its first appearance in England as a small pamphlet of sixteen pages. Although record of this item has been known for many years, it has been a most elusive collector’s item. Until recently no copy has been traced, but fortunately one has turned up—in pristine condition!—and is now part of the distinguished Melville holdings of the Harvard College Library.

For the rights to the Sequel John Murray, the very first of Melville’s publishers, paid fifty pounds and printed 1,250 copies (as contrasted with the 4,000 copies of the first English edition of the precedent narrative). The Sequel was given a long separate notice in the London Athenaeum, No. 988, pp. 10–15 (3 October 1846), in which a bibliographically-minded reviewer, dubbing the authenticity of Melville’s adventures, wrote: ‘We have only to add for the sake of purchasers of the former narrative, that this tale of Toby is printed as a few pages of addition—the peging continued on from the last of the original volume; and that they may complete their possession of this true history, or pleasant romance (as the case may be), for the small supplementary charge of
threepence.' The reviewer's partial description has proved to be correct, for it agrees with the only recorded copy — here more fully described.

THE STORY OF TOBY, A SEQUEL TO 'TYPEE,' BY THE AUTHOR OF THAT WORK. U [being the signature]

LEAF: 4¾" x 7½".

COLLATION: A single signature, U⁶, with additional signature-mark U² on the second leaf of the gathering; signed to follow Murray's first edition of Typee. Issued without fly-title.

PAGINATION: [i], this serves as a title-page, but it is a divisional half-title as subsequently used in the first English cloth edition of Typee (1847) to contain the Sequel; [ii], Note to the Sequel, dated New York, July, 1846; 289-301, text; at foot of 301, printer's note, beneath a rule: London: Printed by William Clowes & Sons, Stamford Street; [302], blank.

BINDING: Printed gray paper wrappers, trimmed to leaf size, uniform with those of the first English edition of Typee issued in parts in Murray's Home and Colonial Library. The front wrapper, inside, and the back wrapper, inside and outside, are imprinted with publisher's advertisements.

The front wrapper, outside, bears a small ink-stamp of a Liverpool bookseller, W. Crapel.

John H. Birss

An O. Henry Cocktail

O HENRY’S Thimble, Thimble,' a story with an unsolved ending frankly imitated from Stockton's 'The-Lady or the Tiger,' was published in Hampton's Magazine, XXI (December, 1908), 698-704. An editorial note remarked: 'This story has caused so much commotion around the office that we are leaving it to our readers — with O. Henry himself as judge — to settle the perplexing question. As an inducement we will pay $50 for the best answer; $25 for the second; $15 for the third, and $10 for the fourth — a total of $100. And we do so with a genuine feeling of relief!' In the following February (XXII, 282-284) the editor wrote that 'every incoming mail is still bringing answers,' and that 'at this writing nearly three thousand of our readers have sent in guesses'; while O. Henry awarded the four prizes to contestants from St Paul, Minnesota, Augusta, Maine, Red Key, Indiana, and Richmond, Virginia. All four winners picked Black Tie as the Virginia Carteret to whom Uncle Jake delivered the heirloom watch.

As indicated by manuscripts now in the Harvard College Library, at least one reader, Miss Edith Morse, New Rochelle, New York, wrote directly to the author, using light blue stationery:

Dear O. Henry,

"Thimble, Thimble" is a mighty clever little story and had me guessing for almost a minute. — However, you
List of Contributors

Keyes D. Metcalf, Professor of Bibliography, Director of the Harvard University Library, and Librarian of Harvard College

Hamilton Vaughan Bail, Hartland, Vermont

Fred N. Robinson, Gurney Professor of English Literature, Emeritus, Harvard University

Philip Horder, Curator of Printing and Graphic Arts in the Harvard College Library

William A. Jackson, Professor of Bibliography and Assistant Librarian of the Harvard College Library in charge of the Houghton Library

Ethel B. Clark, Honorary Keeper of Rare Books, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library

Clifford K. Shipton, Custodian of the Harvard University Archives; Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society

David McCord, Honorary Curator of the Farnsworth and Poetry Rooms of the Harvard College Library, Executive Secretary of the Harvard Fund Council, and Editorial Chairman of the Harvard Alumni Bulletin

I. Bernard Cohen, Instructor in Physical Science, Harvard University

Harold S. Jantz, Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Princeton University

William H. Bond, Houghton Library

William Van Lennep, Curator of the Theatre Collection in the Harvard College Library

John H. Buss, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University College, New York University

Hyder E. Rollins, Gurney Professor of English Literature, Harvard University

Elmer M. Grieder, General Assistant in the Harvard College Library