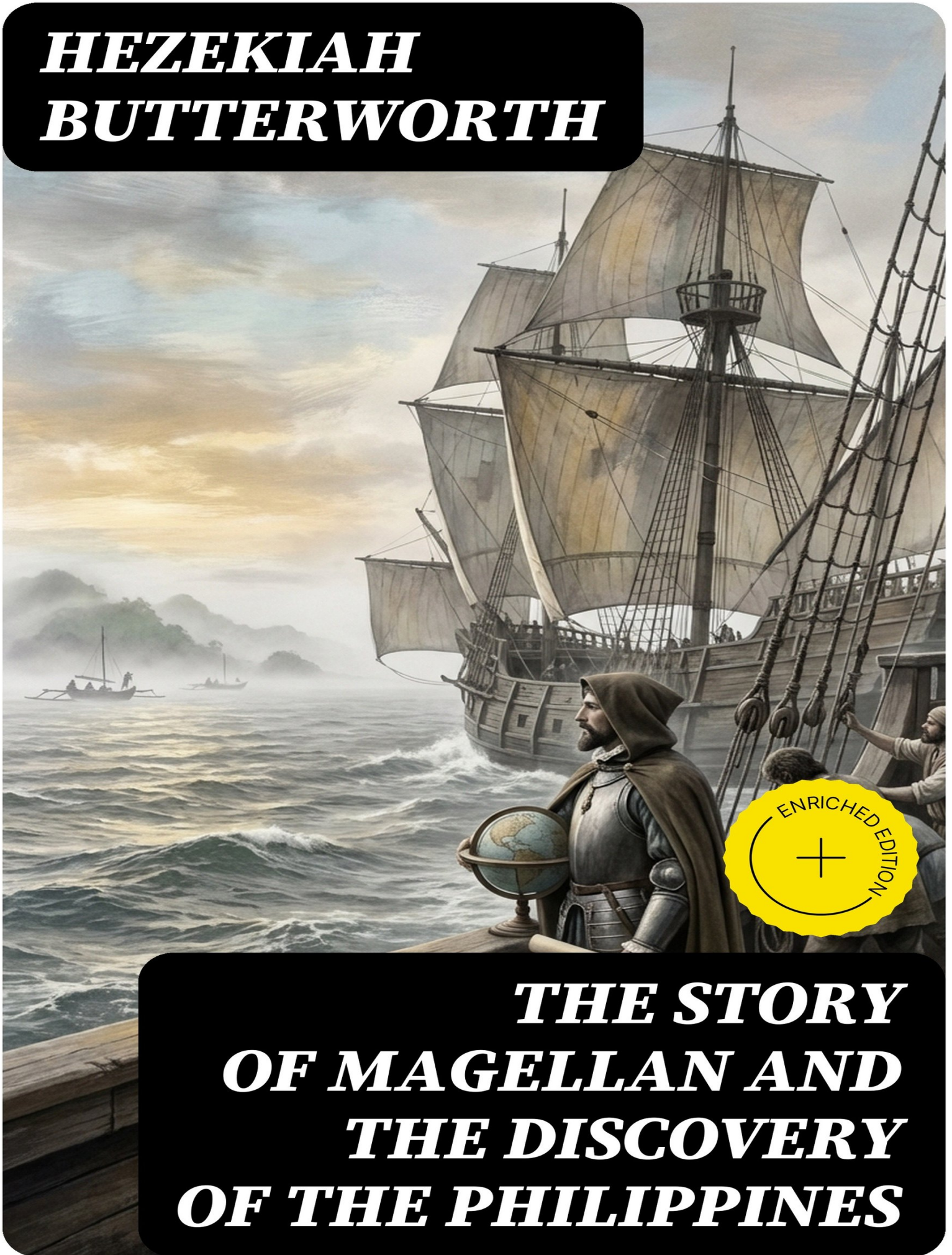


**HEZEKIAH
BUTTERWORTH**



**THE STORY
OF MAGELLAN AND
THE DISCOVERY
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Hezekiah Butterworth

The Story of Magellan and The Discovery of the Philippines

Enriched edition.

Introduction, Studies and Commentaries by Trevor Grimm

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Introduction

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Between the promise of discovery and the perils of ambition, *The Story of Magellan and The Discovery of the Philippines* follows a voyage that tests what it means to find a new world. Hezekiah Butterworth presents a narrative for younger audiences that frames a landmark sixteenth-century expedition as both adventure and moral inquiry. Without lingering on technical minutiae, he sketches the stakes that drove sailors west, the uncertainties of uncharted seas, and the questions of leadership that arise when maps end. The book invites readers to approach the past with curiosity, witnessing early phases of a journey whose consequences reach far beyond the decks and shorelines it first traverses.

First composed in the late nineteenth century, the book belongs to a tradition of juvenile historical narrative that sought to educate while entertaining. Its events unfold across the early sixteenth-century maritime world, from Iberian courts and shipyards to vast oceans and archipelagos in Southeast Asia. Butterworth, an American author known for accessible histories for young readers, organizes the material as a continuous story rather than a technical chronicle, foregrounding character, choice, and consequence. The publication era informs the voice: confident, didactic, and eager to translate complex global shifts into vivid scenes that encourage perseverance, resourcefulness, and humane judgment.

At its core lies the launch of an unprecedented westward quest in search of new routes and knowledge, undertaken amid rivalry, uncertainty, and hope. Butterworth traces the assembly of a fleet, the marshaling of skills and supplies, and the departure into waters few Europeans had charted. His prose moves briskly, pausing for portraits and episodes that illuminate motives, fears, and the discipline required at sea. The tone remains earnest and uplifting, inviting readers to see obstacles as tests of character. The result reads like a guided voyage, where geography, weather, and human temperament continually shape the course ahead.

Themes of vision and resolve run throughout. Curiosity propels the undertaking, yet the narrative weighs it against risk, scarcity, and the fragile cohesion of a crew far from home. Leadership is examined not as infallibility, but as a series of choices under pressure, with loyalty and dissent never far apart. Butterworth also underscores the practical arts of navigation, seamanship, and observation, presenting discovery as a discipline rather than a stroke of luck. Nature emerges as both adversary and teacher, with shifting winds, stars, and coastlines challenging assumptions and rewarding patience, transforming the ocean into a vast classroom and crucible.

Another thread concerns encounter—how merchants, sailors, and missionaries imagine distant peoples, and how first meetings can foster exchange or misunderstanding. Because the book was written in a different era, it reflects the outlook and vocabulary of its time, including perspectives shaped by European exploration and later American interests. Readers may notice simplifications or

heroic framing that sit alongside genuine admiration for skill and courage. Approaching these pages critically deepens the experience, revealing how narratives of discovery can both illuminate and obscure. Butterworth's storytelling thus becomes a historical artifact in its own right, showing how past generations taught global history to youth.

For contemporary readers, the book offers two enduring values: a stirring account of human daring and a prompt to ask what daring costs and whom it serves. Its pages model perseverance and curiosity, qualities vital to scientific and civic life, while also opening conversations about empire, commerce, and belief. In classrooms or personal study, it pairs well with modern histories that provide additional voices and contexts, encouraging comparison across eras. Engaging it today means tracing the lineage of our globalized world back to decisions made at sea, and reflecting on how exploration narratives continue to shape imagination and policy.

Read as a voyage narrative, Butterworth's book balances momentum with reflection, alternating scenes of preparation, peril, negotiation, and discovery to create steady suspense without sensationalism. The voice remains companionable, as if a seasoned guide were pointing out constellations overhead and choices unfolding on deck, inviting readers to consider what they would do under similar strain. Beyond its storyline, it offers a lens on how late nineteenth-century writers framed earlier centuries, turning history into moral fable and map. Approached with empathy and critique in equal measure, it yields both

enjoyment and insight, illuminating the routes by which stories cross oceans.

Synopsis

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Hezekiah Butterworth's *The Story of Magellan and The Discovery of the Philippines* presents a narrative history of Ferdinand Magellan's project to reach Asia by sailing west. Framed by the maritime rivalries of the early sixteenth century, it situates Magellan's plan within the scramble to control spice routes and the legal geography created by competing spheres of influence. Butterworth traces how cosmography, royal ambition, and commercial promise converged, using episodes and portraits of navigators to anchor the story. The book moves from background and preparation to a stepwise account of the voyage, emphasizing endurance, seamanship, and the transforming idea of a globe linked by continuous sea lanes.

Butterworth sketches Magellan's Portuguese origins, his service and setbacks, and his turn to the Spanish crown to back a western passage to the Spice Islands. The author underscores the intellectual groundwork—charts, pilots' lore, and recent Atlantic discoveries—that made such a scheme plausible, while noting political risks in defying entrenched routes. Court negotiations, debates among officials, and the tension between secrecy and publicity shape the preparations. Without dwelling on technical minutiae, the narrative highlights how calculations about distance, winds, and treaties framed the proposal, and how the promise of new trade zones and prestige persuaded royal sponsors to authorize a hazardous experiment.

The expedition's organization becomes a study in logistics and leadership. Butterworth recounts the assembling of a five-ship fleet with mixed-nationality officers, supplies for an unknown duration, and instruments adequate to open-sea navigation. He follows the departure from Spain, early Atlantic passages, and the delicate balance of authority in a company where regional loyalties ran strong. Port calls, provisioning, and the first signs of strain foreshadow greater tests. The narrative tracks how command decisions at sea—route choices, discipline, and risk tolerance—interacted with weather and scarcity, turning the voyage into a measured contest between planning and contingency.

Reaching the South American coast, the fleet gropes along a vast, unfamiliar shoreline in search of a strait. Butterworth presents the wintering in a bleak harbor as both logistical necessity and moral trial, invoking storms, shortages, and dissent without sensational detail. He notes losses and delays, then the careful probing of inlets that culminates in a navigable passage at the continent's tip. The book describes the strait's complexity and hazards and the relief of entering a broad western ocean. Magellan's naming of that sea for its apparent calmness becomes a thematic pivot from coastal exploration to a long, open-water gamble.

The Pacific crossing is rendered as an ordeal of distance. Butterworth emphasizes the length of the passage, the failure of expectations about islands and supplies, and the creeping toll of disease and hunger. Relief comes only after many weeks, when landfall in the western ocean allows

replenishment. The narrative then turns to the archipelago Europeans would later call the Philippines, where careful first contacts are facilitated by a multilingual interpreter. Exchanges of gifts, gestures of alliance, and cautious diplomacy convey both curiosity and fragility as crew and local communities navigate unfamiliar customs and the latent consequences of strategic promises.

In the central islands, Butterworth depicts evolving relationships with regional leaders, the mingling of trade aims and religious overtures, and the pressure to secure firm local partners. He shows how misunderstanding, rivalry, and obligations triggered a confrontation that tested the expedition's cohesion and aims. Losses and a change in command follow, and the book treats this turning point as a lesson in the costs of ambition at the frontier of knowledge. Without dwelling on particulars, it keeps focus on the expedition's objectives—access to spices and proof of a navigable world route—and the fragile alliances that supported or imperiled them.

The closing chapters trace the reduced expedition's push to the Spice Islands and its eventual westward return, completing a global circuit that altered maps, trade, and historical imagination. Butterworth reflects on how the voyage redefined planetary scale, confirmed the interlinked nature of oceans, and inaugurated new patterns of exchange that would shape the Philippines and Europe alike. Throughout, the book underscores courage, calculation, and consequence more than heroics. Its enduring resonance lies in portraying a single voyage as a hinge between local worlds and a global sea, inviting readers to weigh discovery

against responsibility without exhausting the story's final details.

Historical Context

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Set amid the early sixteenth century's Age of Discovery, *The Story of Magellan and The Discovery of the Philippines* recounts events shaped by Iberian rivalry for the spice trade. After Portugal opened the sea route around Africa to India, Spain sought a western passage to Asia. The 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, sanctioned by the papacy, divided new Atlantic discoveries between the crowns, stimulating competing maritime ventures. European courts, merchant guilds, and navigational schools invested in oceanic expeditions that promised pepper, cloves, and prestige. Butterworth's narrative situates Magellan's voyage within this contest, where geography, commerce, and dynastic ambition drove unprecedented, perilous crossings.

Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese veteran of campaigns in the Indian Ocean and Malacca, turned to Spain after failing to win favor with King Manuel I. In 1518 Charles I (later Emperor Charles V) authorized his plan under a capitulacion negotiated at Valladolid. The Casa de Contratacion in Seville supervised provisioning and crews for five ships—Trinidad, San Antonio, Concepcion, Victoria, and Santiago. Rivalries among Spanish officers and foreign captains marked the venture from the start. Butterworth presents these institutional and personal tensions to frame the expedition as a test of loyalty and discipline under the Habsburg monarchy's expanding, bureaucratic maritime system.

The voyage unfolded at a moment when cosmography and seamanship were advancing yet uncertain. Mariners used magnetic compasses, hourglasses, dead reckoning, and celestial observations with the astrolabe or cross-staff, while cartographers from Martin Waldseemüller to the Seville pilots debated the size of the Earth and position of Asia. No European had charted a strait through South America or measured the vastness of the ocean beyond. Butterworth emphasizes the intellectual audacity of seeking a westward route to the Moluccas, a quest that would name the "Pacific," recalibrate global distances, and test the limits of Renaissance science against unfamiliar winds and currents.

In Southeast Asia, the Philippine archipelago comprised diverse coastal polities connected to the wider Malay world. Trade linked Cebu, Luzon, and the Visayas to Chinese, Bruneian, and Indonesian merchants; Islam had spread to Mindanao and Sulu, while various animist and syncretic traditions persisted elsewhere. Local rulers maintained alliances through tribute, marriage, and warfare. When Spanish ships arrived in 1521, Christian evangelization accompanied diplomatic overtures and exchanges of gifts. Butterworth introduces these societies to explain the political and religious landscape confronting European navigators, foregrounding the negotiations, ceremonies, and resistance that conditioned first encounters and shaped subsequent claims of discovery.

The expedition's global consequences are central to its historical context. Juan Sebastian Elcano's return to Spain in 1522 completed the first circumnavigation, proving the

continuity of the oceans and revealing the practical scale of the Earth for long-distance trade. Spain and Portugal later settled rival claims in Asia with the 1529 Treaty of Zaragoza. Spanish colonization of the Philippines began decades afterward under Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, with Manila established in 1571. The Manila-Acapulco galleons then knit Asia, the Americas, and Europe into a transoceanic exchange that shaped silver flows, missionary work, and imperial administration for centuries.

Hezekiah Butterworth, a prolific American writer for young readers and longtime editor at *The Youth's Companion*, published *The Story of Magellan* in 1899, amid intense U.S. debate over overseas expansion. The Spanish-American War of 1898 ended with the Treaty of Paris, by which the United States acquired the Philippines. Armed conflict between U.S. forces and Filipino revolutionaries began in 1899. Missionary societies, school curricula, and popular histories promoted civic ideals and global awareness. Butterworth's volume appears in this milieu, offering an instructive narrative that connected a sixteenth-century voyage to questions of empire, education, and moral purpose circulating in 1890s America.

Butterworth draws on widely circulated sources, above all Antonio Pigafetta's eyewitness account, to shape a biography that balances adventure with instruction. Typical of late nineteenth-century juvenile histories, the book highlights courage, piety, and perseverance while streamlining complex geopolitics and ethnography. It reflects prevailing Protestant and Anglo-American perspectives on Catholic Spain, indigenous societies, and

the civilizing claims of empire. Readers encounter dramatized scenes and moral lessons anchored to documented episodes rather than archival debate. The presentation exemplifies how popular histories translated scholarly narratives into classroom-friendly stories that affirmed character formation and national purpose during a period of American global ascendancy.

As historical context, the book mirrors its era's confidence in progress and the didactic use of history, even as it preserves enduring facts about navigation, diplomacy, and cultural encounter. By celebrating exploration and conversion narratives, it echoes contemporary arguments for benevolent expansion while acknowledging the costs of mutiny, hardship, and contested sovereignty. Butterworth's framing thus invites readers to view Magellan's world through nineteenth-century lenses: empire as order, faith as motive, science as instrument. The work endures as a window into how turn-of-the-century Americans interpreted sixteenth-century exploration to explain, justify, or question their own international commitments.

THE STORY OF MAGELLAN AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE PHILIPPINES

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1899

"Fired by thy fame, [\[A\]](#) and with his King in ire
To match thy deed, shall Magalhaes aspire.

"Along the regions of the burning zone,
To deepest South he dares the course unknown.

"A land of giants shall his eyes behold,
Of camel strength, surpassing human mould.

"Beneath the Southern star's gold gleam he braves
And stems the whirl of land-surrounded waves.

"Forever movèd to the hero's fame,
Those foaming straits shall bear his deathless name."

CAMOËNS.

PREFACE.

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I have been asked to write a story of Ferdinand Magellan, the value of whose discoveries has received a new interpretation in the development of the South Temperate Zone of America, and in the ceding of the Philippine Islands

to the United States. The works of Lord Stanley and of Guillemard furnish comprehensive histories of the intrepid discoverer of the South Pacific Ocean and the Philippine Islands; but there would seem to be room for a short, picturesque story of Magellan's adventures, such as might be read by family lamps and in schools.

To attempt to write such a story is more than a pleasure, for the study of Magellan reveals a character high above his age; a man unselfish and true, who was filled with a passion for discovery, and who sought the welfare of humanity and the glory of the Cross rather than wealth or fame. Among great discoverers he has left a character well-nigh ideal. The incidents of his life are not only honorable, but usually have the color of chivalry.

His voyages, as pictured by his companion Pigafetta, the historian, give us our first view of the interesting native inhabitants of the South Temperate Zone and of the Pacific archipelagoes, and his adventures with the giants of Patagonia and with the natives of the Ladrone Islands[3], read almost like stories of Sinbad the Sailor. The simple record of his adventures is in itself a storybook.

Magellan, from his usually high and unselfish character, as well as for the lasting influence of what he did as shown in the new developments of civilization, merits a place among household heroes; and it is in this purpose and spirit I have undertaken a simple sympathetic interpretation of his most noble and fruitful life. I have tried to put into the form of a story the events whose harvests now appear after nearly four hundred years, and to picture truthfully a

beautiful and inspiring character. To the narrative of his lone lantern I have added some tales of the Philippines.

H. BUTTERWORTH.

28 WORCESTER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

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THE STORY OF MAGELLAN.

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CHAPTER I.

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A STRANGE ROYAL ORDER.

I am to tell the story of a man who had faith in himself[1q].

The clouds and the ocean bear his name[2q]. Lord Stanley has called him "the greatest of ancient and modern navigators."

That was a strange royal order, indeed, which Dom Manoel, King of Portugal[1], issued in the early part of the fifteenth century. It was in effect: "Go to the house of Hernando de Magallanes, in Sabrosa[2], and tear from it the

coat of arms. Hernando de Magallanes (Ferdinand Magellan) has transferred his allegiance to the King of Spain."

The people of the mountain district must have been very much astonished when the cavaliers, if such they were, appeared to execute this order.

As the arms were torn away from the ancient house, we may imagine the alcalde of the place inquiring:

"What has our townsman done? Did he not serve our country well in the East?"

"He is a renegade!" answers the commander.

"But he carried his plans for discovery to our own King first before he went to the court of Spain."

"Say no more! Spain is reaping the fruits of his brain, and under his lead is planting her colonies in the new seas, to the detriment of our country and the shame of the throne. His arms must come down. Portugal rejects his name forever!"



"He is a renegade. His arms must come down!"

The officers of the King tore down the arms. They thought they had consigned the name for which the arms stood to oblivion. As the Jewish hierarchy said of Spinoza: "Let his name be cast out under the whole heavens!" That name rose again.

Years passed and a nephew of Magellan inherited one of the family estates. He was stoned in the streets on account of his name. This man fled in exile from Portugal to Brazil.

He died there, and said: "Let no heir or descendant of mine ever restore the arms of my family."

In his will he wrote:

"I desire that the arms of my family (Magellan) should remain forever obliterated, as was done by order of my Lord and King, *as a punishment for the crime* of Ferdinand Magellan, because he entered the service of Castile to the injury of our kingdom."

It is the history of this same Ferdinand Magellan, whom Portugal and his own family sought to crush out from the world, that we are now about to trace.

Following his highest inspiration, he shut his eyes to the present, and followed the light of the star of destiny in his soul. His discovery seems to open to the West the doors of China.

He was filled from boyhood with a passion for finding unknown lands and waters; he was haunted by ideals and visions of noble exploits for the good of mankind. His own country, Portugal, would not listen to his projects at the time that he offered them to the court; so, like Columbus, Vespucci, and Cabot, he sought the favor of another country. Nothing could stand before the high purpose of his soul. "If not by Portugal, then by Spain," he said to an intimate friend; meaning that, if his own country denied him the favor of giving him an opportunity for exploration, he would present his cause to the court of Spain, which he did.

This man, whose real name was Fernao de Magalhaes, was born about the year 1480, at Sabrosa, in Portugal, a wintry district where the hardy soil and the "gloomy grandeur" of the mountain scenery produced men of strong

bodies and lofty spirit. He belonged to a noble family, "one of the noblest in the kingdom." His boyhood was passed in the sierras. He had a love of works of geography and travel, and he dreamed even then of sunny zones, undiscovered waters, and unknown regions of the world. Henry the Navigator and his school of pilots, astronomers, and explorers, had left the country full of the spirit of new discoveries which yet lived.

He went to the capital of Portugal to be educated, and was made a page to the Queen. He was yet a boy when Columbus returned, bringing the enthralling news of a new world. Spain was filled with excitement at the event; her cities rang with jubilees by day and flared with torches at night. Portugal caught the new spirit of her late King, Henry the Navigator, and was ambitious to rival the discoveries of Spain. She had already established herself in the glowing realms of India.

In 1509 Magellan went to the West Indies in the service of the Portuguese Government. He joined the expedition that discovered the Spice Islands of Banda, and it became his conviction that these islands could be reached by a new ocean way.

A great vision arose in his mind. It was a suggestion that never left him until he saw its fulfillment in an unexpected way on seas of which he never had dreamed.

This view was that he could sail around the world and reach the Spice Islands by the way of the West.



Lisbon, from the south bank of the Tagus.

In the service of the King against the Moors in one of the Portuguese wars, he received a wound which healed, but left him lame for life. He, like other officers, sent in his claim for the pension due to such service. He received answer from the parsimonious King (Dom Manoel):

"Your claim is not good. Your wound has healed."

He was wounded more deeply by this insult than he could have been by any poisoned dart from the Moors. That he should have been refused the recognition of those who had shed blood in his country's cause rankled in his heart, especially as he saw his comrades paraded in honor and pensioned for lesser disabilities. He left Portugal, as an exile, and went to Spain.

Here the high aspirations of the lame soldier met with recognition, and it was this service that caused the Portuguese King to issue the strange order which has