



Man-of-War Life, Or a Boy's Experience in the U.S. Navy (1866)

Charles Nordhoff

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Charles Nordhoff (1830 - 1901) was an American journalist and prolific and noted maritime author.

In 1844, he went to Philadelphia where he worked for a short time in a newspaper office, but then joined the United States Navy, where he served three years and made a voyage around the world.

Under this unpretending title we have a most excellent book. The style is perspicuous, the descriptions graphic and truthful, the reflections just and judicious. Though assuming to be only "A Boy's Experience," it nevertheless presents us with delineations of "Man-of-War Life" from a stand-point quite different from the usual positions in which such delineations have been presented. It accordingly gives us views of the peculiar polity, of the internal orderings, and of the systematic arrangements of the Floating Castles of the Nation,—our Men-of-War,—that are not presented by any other writer. Views, too, which instruct while they delight; and really daguerreotype "Man-of-War Life" before our mind. The author does not assume to speak for the "Quarter Deck,"—the upper-tendom—of our National Vessels; but incidentally gives us much useful information about the "Upper Ten" of that "holy of holies of a Man of-War!" Concerning the 'working classes' of the vessel, however, he furnishes most lively and picturesque descriptions. The information is, therefore, the more valuable, inasmuch as it is the more practical.

Some of his narratives are exceedingly bewitching to minds of more gravity than belongs to boyhood; and much of the information touching the localities visited is worthy of the philosophic consideration of the wisest landmen, while it affords a fund of delightful instruction to the minds of youth.

The account given of the vessel's visit to the ports of China and Japan, is of high interest. His description of the Japanese, though unvarnished in style, is exceedingly impressive.

Nordhoff was a prolific writer, authoring the following works:

Man-of-War Life: a Boy's Experience in the U. S. Navy, largely autobiographical (Cincinnati, 1855)

The Merchant Vessel (1855)

Whaling and Fishing (1855; new edition, 1903)

Nine Years as a Sailor (1857)

Stories from the Island World (New York, 1857)

Secession Is Rebellion: the Union Indissoluble (1860)

The Freedmen of South Carolina: Some Account of their Appearance, Character, Condition, and Customs (1863)

America for Free Working Men! (1865)

Cape Cod and All Along Shore, a collection of stories (1868)

California: For Health, Pleasure, and Residence (1873)

Northern California, Oregon, and the Sandwich Islands (1874)

Politics for Young Americans (1875) This was adopted as a school textbook.

The Communistic Societies of the United States (1875)

The Cotton States in the Spring and Summer of 1875 (1876)

God and the Future Life (1881)

Peninsular California (1888)

Originally published in 1866; reformatted for the Kindle; may contain an occasional imperfection; original spellings kept in place.

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The particular book Man-of-War Life, Or a Boy's Experience in the U.S. Navy (1866) has a lot details on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was compiled by the very famous author. Tom makes some research before write this book. This particular book very easy to read you may get the point easily after reading this article book.

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David Manning:

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