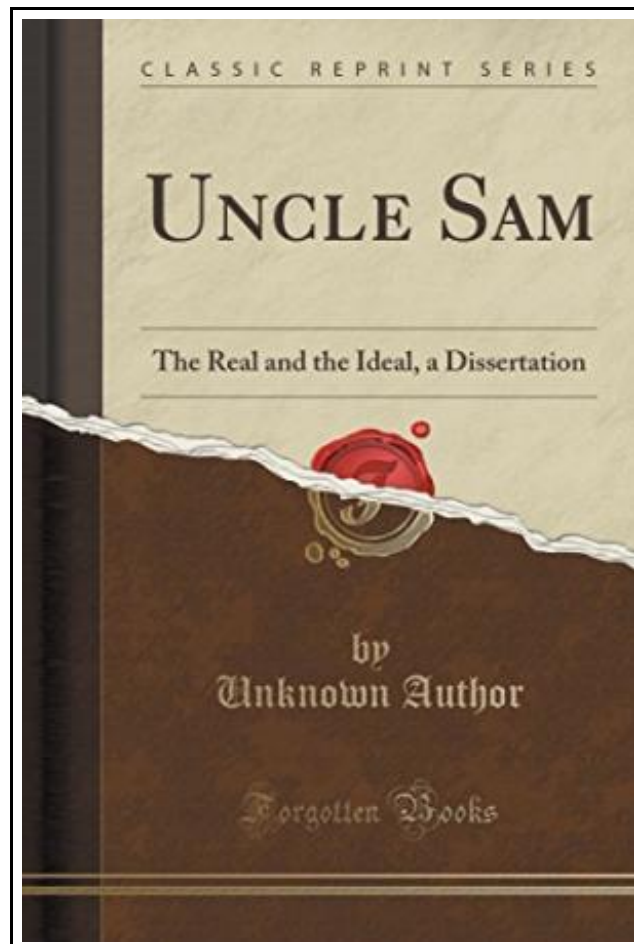


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Legendary? Say, then, the ideal. For it will, of course, be objected that Uncle Sam, as a personage, is not of legendary growth, as he is not the subject of any known legend, printed fable, oral tradition or romance. So much the worse, then, for romance! But may not this be owing to the fact that we Americans have had no Age of Fable, as we have no mythology, no material out of which the stuff of legend and of fable is woven by native story-tellers. The long twilight of the gods, in which such products are best grown and nourished, was not for us. America, or at least that portion of it called the domain of Uncle Sam, was born and launched in the full glare of modern civilization. How then could his posterity, the descendants of Uncle Sam, expect to find here anything of legendary or fabulous growth, anything like, for instance, that to be found in the British Isles, in the enchanted circle of druidic superstition, or in the fairy rings which, as readers know, occur so often in the pastures of Old Romance! Such things are impossible in any nook or corner of a land which is pervaded by the Society for the Diffusion of Useless Knowledge, and also loud with the strident speech of newspaperdom. Where ignorance is not allowed, legends, for the most part, do not live. But the myth-making faculty still survives among us, and it might sometime be said of a legend, as is said of that place reserved for the wicked, that if none existed, it would...



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