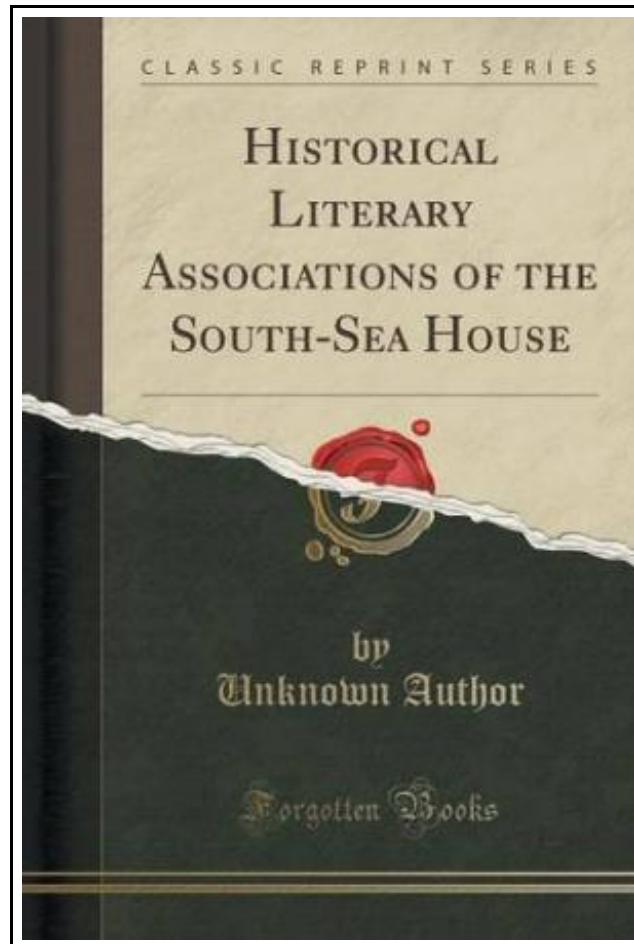


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Historical Literary Associations of the South-Sea House Any account of the South Sea House should begin before the laying of the first stone; before, even, the founding of the Company from which it took its name. To most people the South Sea Company and the South Sea Bubble convey synonymously a more or less accurate impression of a period of history when a whole populace went suddenly mad. The famous Bubble is not the only example that history affords, either before that time or since; but it is, perhaps, the most illuminating. The story puts into high relief one of the strongest instincts in man - the possessive instinct - at a time when it was uncurbed, naked, and vulgar. So fascinating proved the prospect of easily gotten wealth that England was turned, as a contemporary wrote, into a nation of stock-jobbers; and if people were not conscious of their own shrewdness, most of them suspected as much, - until their savings had changed into suffering. That was two centuries ago. Probably, in these days, a project of the same magnitude and as calamitous as the South Sea Scheme would be pushed as successfully as Mrs. Partington's broom was against the Atlantic breakers. This does not flatter the modern man. Whether his wisdom is at all superior to that of his forefathers is a question ever likely to survive debate. The point is that if the speculating mania is more curbed than it was in Anne's day, progress is reflected not so much in the man, as in the course of painful and imperative legislation. Yet curiously enough, if we survey, however briefly,...

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