



# The Life Stories of Undistinguished Americans as Told by Themselves

*Hamilton Holt*

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1906 edition. Excerpt: ... CHAPTER XIII THE LIFE STOERY OF AN IGOEEOTE CHIEF The genial exponent of the simple life who furnished the following article by talking through an interpreter, was a large, plump Filipino, whose age was probably forty-eight. He was clad in two necklaces, two bracelets, some tattoo marks and a loin cloth. He speaks no English and therefore only his ideas and statements of fact are given. In regard to figures he is quite impressionistic, "a thousand" representing any very large number. He was the leader of the band of Igorrotee at Coney Island when he told this story of his life. I AM Chief Fomoaley, of the Bontoc Igorrotes, and I have come to the United States with my people in order to show the white people our civilization. The white man that lives in our town asked me to come, and said that Americans were anxious to see us. Since we have been here great crowds of white people have come and watched us, and they seemed pleased. We are the oldest people in the world. All others come from us. The first man and woman--there were two women--lived on our mountains and their children lived there after them, till they grew bad and God sent a great flood that drowned them, all except seven, who escaped in a canoe and landed, after the flood went down, on a high mountain. Three times a year our old men call the people together and tell them the old stories of how God made the world and then the animals, and lastly men. These stories have been handed down in that way from the very beginning, so that we know they are true. The white men have some stories, too, like that. Perhaps they may have heard them from one of us. At any rate, they are wrong about some things. There was a white man who told us that the place where the canoe landed after the...

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