

**LOVE-BOUND AND
OTHER POEMS**

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Love-Bound and Other Poems by Adaline Talcott Emerson

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**BY
ADALINE TALCOTT EMERSON**

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TO

MY BLESSED HUSBAND,

THE INSPIRATION OF MY LIFE, AND THE
DEAR CHILDREN, THE FRUIT OF OUR LOVE,
I DEDICATE THIS VOLUME, THE OUTCOME
OF MANY EXPERIENCES, THE RIPENING
THOUGHT OF MANY YEARS.

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A FORE-WORD AND FOR-WORD.



POETRY is, among other things, the universal expression of individual emotion. This gives verse its importance and its audacity. There is a sense in which each essay in verse challenges all the past, and enters the list with the great of all time. But there comes a season, both early and late, in all tongues, when verse is common to all. Once early, when speech is still fluid, in the days of the ballad, and once late, as in our own day, when the field of verse is once more open to all, because the seeds of rhyme have been sown in every soul. At such a time in each tongue, verse becomes the frequent resource of per-

sonal emotion, in utterance, strictly personal, and owing its interest to personal relations. Such verse deserves record and revelation, not for the outer world, but for those by whom it was prompted and to whom it was addressed. Too often such volumes are given the hard stress of the market, the critic's table, and by sad fate at length reach the book-stall. Among the lesser pathetics of letters, there is perhaps none which so touches a heart to which books live, as the sight of the slender volume which once held the record of a heart and the hope of fame, among the culls of the stall. But this is a sign, not that such verse, which has its own home charm, should not reach print, but proof rather that it should keep in print to the silent and sequestered path where only friends can greet its page.

In this spirit, and to this end, the verse which succeeds has been given the form in which it