

POEMS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649498086

Poems by John W. Curtis

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JOHN W. CURTIS

POEMS

P O E M S

BY THE LATE

REV. JOHN W. CURTIS, M. A.

NEW-YORK:

EDWARD G. JENKINS,

NO. 114 NASSAU STREET.

1846.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
160365
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1899.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1886,

BY GEO. H. CURTIS,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Southern District of
New York.

NOV 18 1886

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MEMOIR.

JOHN W. CURTIS, the eldest son of Zechariah Curtis, was born at Troy, in the State of New York, on the 7th January, 1804. His grandfather, on the mother's side, and his father, were among the early settlers of this now large and flourishing city.

To this grandfather, William Roberts, Sen.—who had served in several engagements during the great Revolutionary struggle—he was indebted for many a thrilling tale

“Of hair-breadth 'scapes i' the imminent deadly breach.”

The grandsire received an attentive hearing, for the young listener deemed it his most delightful recreation, during his earlier studies, to watch the old man relating his stirring stories and “fighting his battles o'er again.” Both are now gone; but the Revolutionary soldier, with the iron constitution of the men of those days and scenes, survived his grandson for about two years.

Contemplative and retiring, from early childhood, the young student was left, to a great extent, to read those books and frequent those haunts which his own mind suggested as in best accordance with his taste. The works of the standard English poets had become familiar to him be-