

**POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649217090

Poems by Charles G. Eastman

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**CHARLES G. EASTMAN**

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OF

*AMTGE*  
CHARLES G. EASTMAN.



MONTPELIER, VT.:  
T. C. PHINNEY, PUBLISHER.

1880.

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WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING COMPANY  
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE, BOSTON, MASS.

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## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

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IN presenting to the public this edition of the POEMS OF CHARLES G. EASTMAN, its Editor deems it proper to make some explanation in regard to the many differences which will be noticed between the poems as here presented and in the edition of 1848. After publishing, Mr. Eastman, in an interleaved copy, was accustomed to often correct and change the readings of his poems, as his judgment or fancy at the time dictated; frequently not only altering the words, but the sense, of entire passages. He had also, before his sickness, entirely remodelled many of those poems which are generally regarded as his best. From this interleaved copy the present edition has been prepared. Wherever the alteration was *certainly intended* by the Author, it has been followed; but wherever the intention was doubtful, or the manuscript change was apparently made for the mere purpose of future adoption if finally approved, the original text has been restored. In these respects, the Editor has exer-

cised, to some extent, his own discretion, — he trusts, not unwisely.

From among the unpublished manuscripts of Mr. Eastman, the Editor has selected, and presents in this edition, twenty-three new poems, and some fragmentary pieces which he deems too beautiful to be cast aside. Of these poems, two — “*The Old and New*,” and the one we have entitled “*Life’s Mission*” (the Author not having entitled it) — are of over five hundred lines each. These the reader may, properly perhaps, regard as unfinished and incomplete; but from the fact that they were regarded by the Author as his most important work, and for the preservation of the many fine and finished passages they contain, we have chosen to include them in this volume. The manuscript of these poems when placed in our hands was in a most disorderly state. Written on loose sheets, without paging, it was embarrassed with numberless erasures, additions, and interlineations, and with duplicate and triplicate versions of the same passage, from which it was difficult to select the one approved by the Author, — to such an extent that the Editor has felt at times disposed, in distrust of his own power of proper arrangement, to discard