

**THE POEMS OF
CHARLES
FENNO HOFFMAN**

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The Poems of Charles Fenno Hoffman by Charles Fenno Hoffman

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P O E M S
OF
CHARLES FENNO HOFFMAN.

COLLECTED AND EDITED
BY HIS NEPHEW,
EDWARD FENNO HOFFMAN.



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PREFACE.

CHARLES FENNO HOFFMAN was born in New York in 1806. He entered Columbia College when fifteen years old, and remained there till the junior year, when he commenced the study of law in Albany. He was of too active a temperament for so quiet a life, and a number of his poems which appeared in the "Albany Gazette"* having met with a favorable reception, he gradually drifted away from his profession, and engaged in an occupation more congenial to his tastes. During his literary career, he was for a number of years a contributor to the "New York American," and afterward became editor of the "Knickerbocker Magazine" and the "Literary World." In October, 1833, starting from New York on horseback, he made a tour in the dead of winter

* Several of these poems may be found in this volume under the head of "Forest Musings."

through the North-western States to the Mississippi, and home through the South-west, Kentucky and Virginia. During nearly the whole of this adventurous ride he was entirely alone, with the exception of such chance companions as he would pick up on the way; and considering the intensity of the cold, the severity of the snow-storms and the unsettled state of the country, it is remarkable that he accomplished it without an accident. On his return to New York the following May he published an account of his trip in a series of letters entitled "A Winter in the West." He is also the author of "Wild Scenes in Forest and Prairie," "Grayslaer, a Romance," "The Life of Jacob Leisler" and numerous essays which have never been collected.

For the last twenty-five years, on account of ill-health, he has been obliged to forego all literary pursuits, and since his retirement, his writings have been for many years out of print, and his reputation has only been kept alive by "Monterey," "Sparkling and Bright," "Rosalie Clare" and other of his most popular songs which have found their way into the various compendiums of American literature. In placing this volume of his poems

before the public I have been influenced solely by a feeling that on account of their literary merits they should be collected, and that the author would prefer this task be performed by some near relative whose affection for him entitled to assume so delicate an office. Conscious that I possess this qualification, I have been encouraged to undertake what has been to me a most agreeable labor. A complete edition of his poems would be impossible, as many of them appeared anonymously; but in the present volume I have included a number of pieces not contained in either of the previous editions. It is rather a venture to reproduce poems which have remained so long a time in obscurity; but in the conviction that a true appreciation of the beauties of nature and purity of sentiment are qualities which will always be admired, I have strong hopes that they will regain their former position of popularity with the public.

My uncle was a lover of nature and the natural. Most of his leisure was spent in excursions on the Hudson and into the Adirondacks, at that time a trackless wilderness. He was passionately fond of these wild haunts, and took a particular inte-