

**AMHERST MEMORIES. A
COLLECTION OF
UNDERGRADUATE VERSE
OF AMHERST COLLEGE**

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Amherst Memories. A Collection of Undergraduate Verse of Amherst College by Allan Benjamin MacNeill & John Mantel Clapp

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ALLAN BENJAMIN MACNEILL & JOHN MANTEL CLAPP

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UNDERGRADUATE VERSE OF AMHERST COLLEGE.

EDITED BY
ALLAN BENJAMIN MACNEILL
AND
JOHN MANTEL CLAPP,
CLASS OF '90.

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"As the dew to the blossom, the bud to the bee,
As the scent to the rose, are those memories to me."

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INTRODUCTION.

College Verse, like College Song, has a flavor peculiar to itself. Exalted literary merits cannot be claimed for it,—the average undergraduate, even the extraordinary undergraduate who writes College Verse, has, as a rule, neither ideas especially worthy perpetuation nor dexterity of style for their expression,—and the work he turns out may appear to mature and impartial critics to be very crude and boyish. It would be inversion of the natural order of mental growth if such crudity were not found in writers so young as these. Nevertheless, by intelligent critics, College Verse is not absolutely to be condemned. Pretentious work of any sort is beyond the powers of student versifiers. But in the lighter forms of writing, which demand delicacy of touch, buoyancy of spirit, grace and freshness of expression,—the kind of writing that the *vers de societe* of recent years represents,—here the college man may

find a place, and a place that perhaps no one can fill with quite his success. The charm of this light verse consists in its spontaneity, its impersonality, its freedom from the restraints of actual life,—and these qualities belong distinctively to college men, or, if you please, college boys. Student versifiers having now in a great measure realized their powers and their limitations, their work has lost its worst defect, of insincerity, and is as deserving of intelligent discriminating notice as that of the maturer singers. Now and then, also, a real poet appears among them, to whom the higher things are not altogether forbidden, and who lifts up the whole level of undergraduate writing.

After all, however, the chief interest of college writing as such must spring from its associations. Its appeal must be to college men, past and present, as an incarnation of the atmosphere, the point of view, wherein lies the charm of college life and memories. It is as an expression of the undergraduates of Amherst,—their life and ideals, their shortcomings and boyishness as well, that this volume

finds its excuse for being. It would quicken in alumni and students of Amherst the memories of their Alma Mater,—memories of the intellectual influences and surroundings of those early years, just as of the friendships and fellowships of student days, and the setting of hill and valley and river about the quiet town.

The aim of the editors has been to represent as nearly as might be the verse-writing of the college in its completeness. No single period, no one variety of writing has been exclusively put forward; if the greater part of the selections are of recent date, the reason is to be found in the finer work of the last few years.

To the many friends, among the Faculty and the alumni, who have given advice and assistance in the preparation of the volume, the editors would express their sincere thanks for this kindness.

A. B. MACNEILL,

J. M. CLAPP.

Amherst, Mass., June, 1890.



Figure 1. Relationship between the number of species (S) and the number of individuals (N) for 10 different species. The regression line is labeled 'R² = 0.98'.