## THE MIGHT OF MANHATTAN, AND OTHER POEMS

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The might of Manhattan, and other poems by Joseph D McManus

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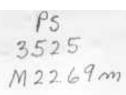
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### JOSEPH D MCMANUS

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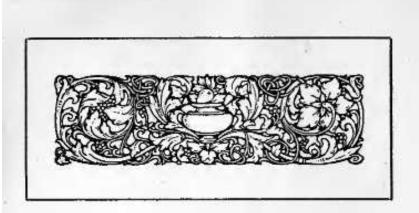


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#### I

How MIGHTY is the forest oak whose span Broad centuries of steady growth uprear! But mightier are the towering works of man

Wrought in the narrow compass of a year,

And mightiest on Manhattan they appear To grace this wonder isle,—this throbbing mart,—

Which drains the pulses of a hemisphere To claim the best that Wealth and Skill impart And lift a lofty skyline, radiant with Art.

#### п

A diadem by day, a great glow-worm At night, encanopies the hives of trade, Where Mammon's lure, deep, sentiment and firm, Holds myriad minions fretful and afraid Lest they be gripped so tightly, all plans laid For winning or for gaining fall to ground; Yet, over all, the spirit that has made Manhattan's grit and greatness world-renowned Shines in that superb skyline where success is

crowned.

#### III

Huge panoramic signboard where, behold! Proud Progress paints her own advertisement; Can Commerce cast herself in statelier mold

Or Business build a worthier monument?

The practical and artistic here are blent In harmony: Colossal towers and domes

Are silhouetted in the firmament With splendours that were once Imperial Rome's Chief boast, in public pomp and luxury of homes.

#### IV

Mount, mimic miniature Alps 1 in serried files Of many-storied structures reared in pride, Within a radius of a dozen miles Here half-a-dozen million souls reside,— A medley of all nations unified In mutual uplift to participate:

Consider what this ever-rising tide Of compact human energy will create For generations, yet unborn, to contemplate.

#### v

Charmed crucible! wherein constructive force Enfetters those twin-tyrants, Time and Space, With marvels of invention and resource

That comfort and convenience find a place: Unrivalled is Manhattan in the race

For world supremacy; can fate withstand

Intensive Industry's prodigious pace Which Destiny and Duty both demand, — The hope of humankind when armaments disband.

#### VI

But if earth's potentates in league with Mars

Ordain that all millennium efforts cease, That Science seek her laurel wreaths in wars,

That arms are indispensable to peace,

Then let the nation's armaments increase And multiply the arsenals and forts

To be prepared for challenge or caprice Of foreign foes that plan with trained cohorts To levy tribute on the richest of seaports.

#### VII

The ideal state is where the people's voice Is heard and heeded for the common weal, Not where conscripted troops, the despot's choice, Implant subservience with an iron heel, From whose oppression there is no appeal;

To rule by right divine is feudal creed

Founded on myth, by monarchs urged with zeal To thwart the hopes for equal rights that feed On fruits of Liberty and Learning's mingled seed.