

**THE POETICAL
WORKS. VOL. III**

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The Poetical Works. Vol. III by Henry W. Longfellow

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HENRY W. LONGFELLOW

**THE POETICAL
WORKS. VOL. III**

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THE
POETICAL WORKS

OF
Edward
HENRY W. LONGFELLOW.

AUTHORIZED EDITION.

VOL. III.

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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ
1868.

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Ms. F. R. Schermer
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TALES OF A WAYSIDE INN.

PRELUDE.

THE WAYSIDE INN.

ONE Autumn night, in Sudbury town,
Across the meadows bare and brown,
The windows of the wayside inn
Gleamed red with fire-light through the leaves
Of woodbine, hanging from the eaves
Their crimson curtains rent and thin.

As ancient is this hostelry
As any in the land may be,
Built in the old Colonial day,
When men lived in a grander way,
With ampler hospitality;
A kind of old Hobgoblin Hall,
Now somewhat fallen to decay,
With weather-stains upon the wall,
And stairways worn, and crazy doors,
And creaking and uneven floors,
And chimneys huge, and tiled and tall.

A region of repose it seems,
A place of slumber and of dreams,
Remote among the wooded hills!
For there no noisy railway speeds,
Its torch-race scattering smoke and gleeds;