

**SOME ANCIENT
MELODIES, AND
OTHER EXPERIMENTS**

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Some Ancient Melodies, and Other Experiments by N. K. Royse

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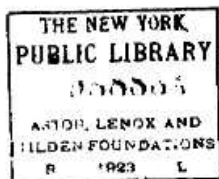
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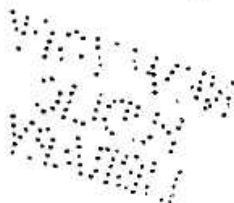
BY
N. K. ROYSE,
Author of a "Manual of American Literature," also a "Manual
of English Literature."



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PREFACE.

We get no good,
By being ungenerous, even to a book,
And calculating profits. . . so much help
By so much reading. It is rather when
We gloriously forget ourselves, and plunge
Soul-forward, headlong, into a book's profound.
Impassioned for its beauty and salt of truth—
'Tis then we get the right good from a book.

—*Mrs. Browning.*

The author of this little volume hopes his public will heed the authoritative opinion just quoted; and, accordingly, be generous, and plunge, one and all, into his pages with an abandon near to the breaking of their souls and heads. And if in that dive they shall reach a "profound," or in the attempt discover any native "beauty," or get any taste

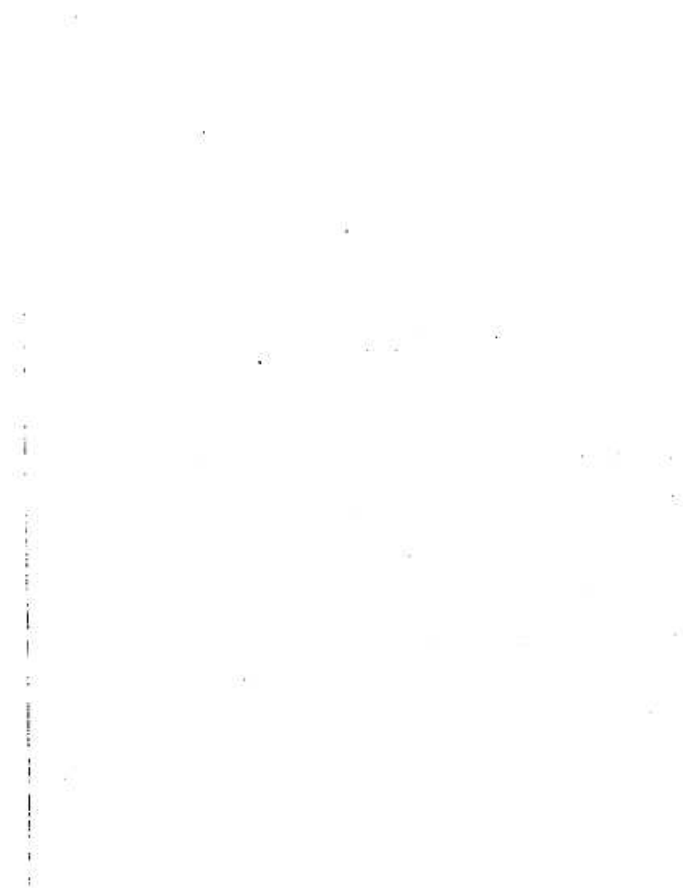
of the "salt of truth," he promises to feel quite as much surprised and pleased at the result as the public possibly can.

N. K. ROYSE.

CINCINNATI, *January 1, 1882.*

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SOME ANCIENT MELODIES.



WE would not, for an instant, call in question the orthodox allotment of age to the Bible, nor yet dispute that, among Jews and Christians, very generally, its fundamental truths become inculcated in very tender years; but we do assert that there is one book, which, so far as we are individually concerned, antedates and anticipates, in our early training, even the teachings of the Bible.

There is quite a diversity of opinion among enlightened men as to how far back into the virgin (used generically) soil of infancy they are able to trace the rootlets of memory. Some follow them back only to within three