

**JOHN MARR AND
OTHER POEMS**

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John Marr and other poems by Herman Melville

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HERMAN MELVILLE

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BY

HERMAN MELVILLE

With an Introductory Note by

HENRY CHAPIN



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Introductory Note

MELVILLE'S verse printed for the most part privately in small editions from middle life onward after his great prose work had been written, taken as a whole, is of an amateurish and uneven quality. In it, however, that loveable freshness of personality, which his philosophical dejection never quenched, is everywhere in evidence. It is clear that he did not set himself to master the poet's art, yet through the mask of conventional verse which often falls into doggerel, the voice of a true poet is heard. In selecting the pieces for this volume I have put in the vigorous sea verses of *John Marr* in their entirety and added those others from his *Battle Pieces*, *Timoleon*, etc., that best indicate the quality of their author's personality. The prose *Supplement to Battle Pieces* has been included because it does so much to explain the feeling of his war verse and further because it is such a remarkably wise and clear commentary upon those confused and troublous days of post-war reconstruction.

H. C.

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