

**SCANDINAVIAN CLASSICS,  
VOLUME II. POEMS BY TEGNER:  
THE CHILDREN OF THE LORD'S  
SUPPE; AND FRITHIOF'S SAGA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649143801

Scandinavian classics. Volume II. Poems by Tegnér: The children of the Lord's suppe; And Frithiof's saga by Esaias Tegnér

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**ESAIAS TEGNÉR**

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SCANDINAVIAN CLASSICS  
VOLUME II.

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POEMS BY TEGNÉR

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THE CHILDREN OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

TRANSLATED FROM THE SWEDISH BY  
HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

AND

FRITHIOF'S SAGA

TRANSLATED BY REV. W. LEWERY BLACKLEY

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

PAUL ROBERT LIEDER, A.M.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



NEW YORK

THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN  
FOUNDATION

1914

## PREFACE

TEGNÉR presents the curious situation in literature of a writer who, although his chief work has been rendered a score of times into English, is still not widely known in England and America. This has been due partly to the rarity of most of the translations. The first seven, for instance, had so limited a circulation that Muckleston, who made the eighth in 1862, did not know of the existence of any previous one when he sent his own manuscript to the press. The American-Scandinavian Foundation hopes through this volume to make Tegnér more easily accessible to those who cannot read him in the original. He is the one Swedish poet to whose works all his compatriots will at once accord a place among Scandinavian classics.

The translation of the *Frithiof's Saga* here printed is that of the Rev. W. L. Blackley, Dublin, 1857. It was reprinted once before in this country, by Bayard Taylor, in 1867,—the first version of the Swedish work to appear in the United States. *The Children of the Lord's Supper* is from Longfellow's *Ballads and Other Poems*, Cambridge, 1842. Both translations are faithful reproductions of their originals. Blackley, however, disregards the feminine or double rhymes that occur so often in the *Frithiof's*

*Saga*. He reproduces them only where he can do so without twisting the sense or forcing the expression.

The Introduction that follows is the outcome of studies carried on under Professor W. H. Schofield at Harvard University. To him I owe great gratitude for valuable suggestions and encouragement. Through his mediation and the kindness of Dr. H. W. L. Dana of Columbia University, I have been able to consult freely Longfellow's Scandinavian books in the library of Craigie House, the poet's residence in Cambridge. I am also indebted to my brother, Dr. F. W. C. Lieder of Harvard, for generous criticism, and for help in reading the manuscript and proofs.

P. R. L.

*Cambridge, Massachusetts*

*May 26, 1914*



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## INTRODUCTION

**E**SAIAS TEGNER was born November 13, 1782, at Kyrkerud in Wermland.\* Both his mother and his father were children of preachers, whose parents, in turn, had been peasants. Thus Tegnér was virtually of the peasant class,—a fact of which he was never ashamed. His father's name, Esaias Lucasson, had been transformed at the gymnasium, or preparatory school, to Esaias Tegnerus, because he came from Tegnaby (the village of Tegna) in Småland. In the poet's own time, the surname was further changed to its present more aristocratic form.

When Esaias was nine years old, his father died, leaving a widow and six children with scant means of support. A state official in the district, Assessor Branting, a friend of the family, offered to take Esaias, the youngest son, into his home. Branting gave him a position in the counting-house, but the boy had plenty of time to himself, which he devoted mainly to the study of poetry and history. Tegnér liked, above all, the old Icelandic sagas, and read frequently that of Frithiof the Bold, which was later to become the basis of his greatest poem. He went with the Assessor on frequent official trips through Wermland, thus becoming well acquainted with the beautiful scenery of his country, which he so often describes.

Branting, being impressed by the future poet's keenness of perception and eagerness for knowledge, arranged that he should study under an elder brother, Lars Gustaf Tegnér,

\*The biographical facts in this Introduction are taken mainly from the valuable essays on Tegnér by Brandes and by Boyesen. The standard biography of the poet is by his son-in-law, C. W. Böttiger, *Teckning af Tegnér's Lifnad*, Stockholm, 1847.