

**THE PROPHECY,
AND OTHER POEMS**

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The prophecy, and other poems by W. A. Croffut

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W. A. CROFFUT

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891 pp.; Plates lviii. Price, \$5.00. Ledyard Bill,
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"This is an admirable record of the career of our soldiers for four years through march and hospital, camp and battle, for which the thanks of the State are due you."—*Gov. Buckingham*.

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By W. A. Croffut in Collaboration with Dr. Lyman C. Draper, Secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society; Introduction (7 pages) by Horace Greeley; 821 pages; 117 illus. Price, \$4.00. Charles F. Wiltach & Co., Cincinnati, publishers; 1870.

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"Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the comic part of the *Tribune*, has ceased to write any more of those fine, soul-stirring ballads which made his paper so popular with all Bourbons, and the Bourbon Secretary of the Senate has been compelled to discontinue it."—*Denn Platt*.

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Mr. W. A. Croffut's Writings.

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Libretto by W. A. Croffut; music by Dudley Buck. This comic opera on Mormonism was first produced with a chorus of seventy singers, in Brooklyn, N. Y., in October, 1880.

"Deseret, a new comic opera, was performed last evening at Haverly's before a large audience, and was received with considerable favor. By reason of its pretty music and amusing story it is merry and entertaining, and last night it was much applauded and frequently interrupted with genuine and hearty laughter. Messrs. Buck and Croffut were called before the curtain almost prematurely, garlanded with flowers and 'speech!' 'speech!' vainly demanded of them."—*N. Y. Herald*, Oct. 14, 1880.

"Mr. W. A. Croffut, whose brilliant 'Graphicalities' gave the Graphic great popularity and who has more recently made a national reputation through his clever 'Bourbon Ballads' in the *Tribune*, has filled with happy conceits the libretto of 'Deseret,' now at the Brooklyn."—*Home Journal*.

"Thanks to Mr. Croffut's bright and original libretto, and Mr. Dudley Buck's strong and scholarly music, the opera could not be killed with kindness, and it ended, at a late hour, with something very like a genuine success. * * There are fortunes in it for all concerned. All through the country it will draw crowded houses and be warmly praised."—*Spirit of the Times*.

"Deseret survived the amateurs on the stage and the amateurs in front of the house, and it will make its mark and lead to a successful rivalry of Sullivan and Gilbert, if not of Offenbach, Herve and Lecocq."—*N. Y. Daily Times*.

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"The Mormon opera, Deseret, has captured success, and since leaving this city has been given in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Chicago and is now in its eighth week."—*N. Y. World*.

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Mr. W. A. Croffut's Writings.

A Midsummer Lark.

A book of travels in verse; by W. A. Croffut. New York; Henry Holt & Co., 1883. 16mo., pp. xii, 256. Price, \$1.25. (Leisure Hour Series, No. 150.)

"Both the matter and the form of his book are well calculated to attract attention and to afford amusement. The whole of it, from dedication to finale, is cast in rhyme, and it is altogether such a jolly, rollicking sort of a 'lark' that the worst tempered man in the world could not help laughing over it. It is genuinely and spontaneously bright and witty."—*St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

"Old routes take on new charms under Mr. Croffut's lively handling."—*Buffalo Courier*.

"This is a whimsical humorous story of the haps and mishaps of a party of merry travelers. The whole thing is a literary joke, strongly marked with the characteristics of the author, who is one of the wittiest and most facile writers connected with American journalism."—*Minneapolis Tribune*.

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"This Midsummer Lark really carols in musical strain. The book is a poem of many metres. Not satisfied with writing poetical prose, the author has given us prose (but far from prosy) poetry. At first the incongruity of vehicle and sentiment jars upon the reader. It is too like a farce to quite satisfy a refined taste. But, as the rhythmical lines flow on from page to page and as one notes the vividness of the scenes portrayed and marks the esprit of the whole the shocked conventional judgment insensibly merges into an amused toleration, and this in turn becomes undisguised and genial approval. Many of the descriptions are fine poetry; but the comments upon the 'old masters' and such points as the Tarpeian Rock and Appian Way are marked by the same shrewd, possibly rude, mother wit as that famous volume of Mark Twain which first shook the autocecity of antiquity. We can conceive of no book, admittedly written to amuse its readers, which can be found to yield more entertainment in proportion to its information."—*Chicago Tribune*.

"A Midsummer Lark is the most daring literary adventure that has been attempted for years. There never was anything like it published before. No one but the man whose name lies on the title page would have conceived such an idea, and his most ardent admirer and steadfast friend could not have expected it to be carried fully out. Mr. Croffut has long been recognized as a genius by those who are familiar with his versatility, his wonderful power of imagination and his infinite humor; he is an audacious and remorseless punster, and has a wit that brings a spark whenever it strikes friend or foe. He is always doing something or writing something—the busiest man in New York."—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

"Somebody has said, 'When you see a humorist, kill him on the spot—with kindness.' Nobody can help having a kindly feeling for the man who puts everybody in good humor and provokes laughter in all sorts of unexpected ways. A genuine humorist is a walking and talking sublimity, radiating cheerfulness wherever he goes. And if he does not produce explosions of merriment, he fills the mind with that pleasurable content which heals all wounds and makes one oblivious of everything but present enjoyment. Since Mark Twain's 'Innocents Abroad' we have had no such delightful, fun-provoking book about Europe as Croffut's 'Midsummer Lark'."—*N. Y. Sun*.

"This unique narrative of a lark with congenial companions through Scotland, England, and over the continent, forms one of the popular Leisure Hour series, and is as bright and sparkling and fresh as though no line had ever been read about foreign travels."—*Boston Herald*.

"Croffut's humor is lighter and daintier than Mark Twain's, but it is quite as genuine and does not tire so soon. And the oldest inhabitant will aver that he never saw Europe done up in such a style before."—*N. Y. Star*.

"Of all the trash that was ever written, this takes the cake."—*Rochester Democrat*.

"So far as we remember, nothing of the kind has ever been done before except by Moore, who in his 'Rhymes on the Road' attempted to leave in poetic form the reminiscences of a poet's journey."—*Buffalo Courier*.

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Mr. W. A. Croffut's Writings.

The Vanderbilts and the Story of their Fortune.

By W. A. Croffut; New York and Chicago; Belford, Clarke & Co., 1886. 16mo., pp. xii, 310; Illustrated. Price, \$1.50. Third edition, 1894.

"This volume is an interesting, timely and suggestive history of the Vanderbilt family, of their lives and efforts, and is as entertaining as any novel. But the chief element of value in the work just now is the plainness with which it is made to appear that the Vanderbilts have been the accumulators of wealth, which, while it has enriched them, has at the same time been of far greater benefit to the community as a whole."—*Chicago Times*.

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