

**JOHN MARR AND OTHER
POEMS, WITH AN
INTRODUCTORY
NOTE BY HENRY CHAPIN**

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John Marr and other poems, with an introductory note by Henry Chapin by Herman Melville

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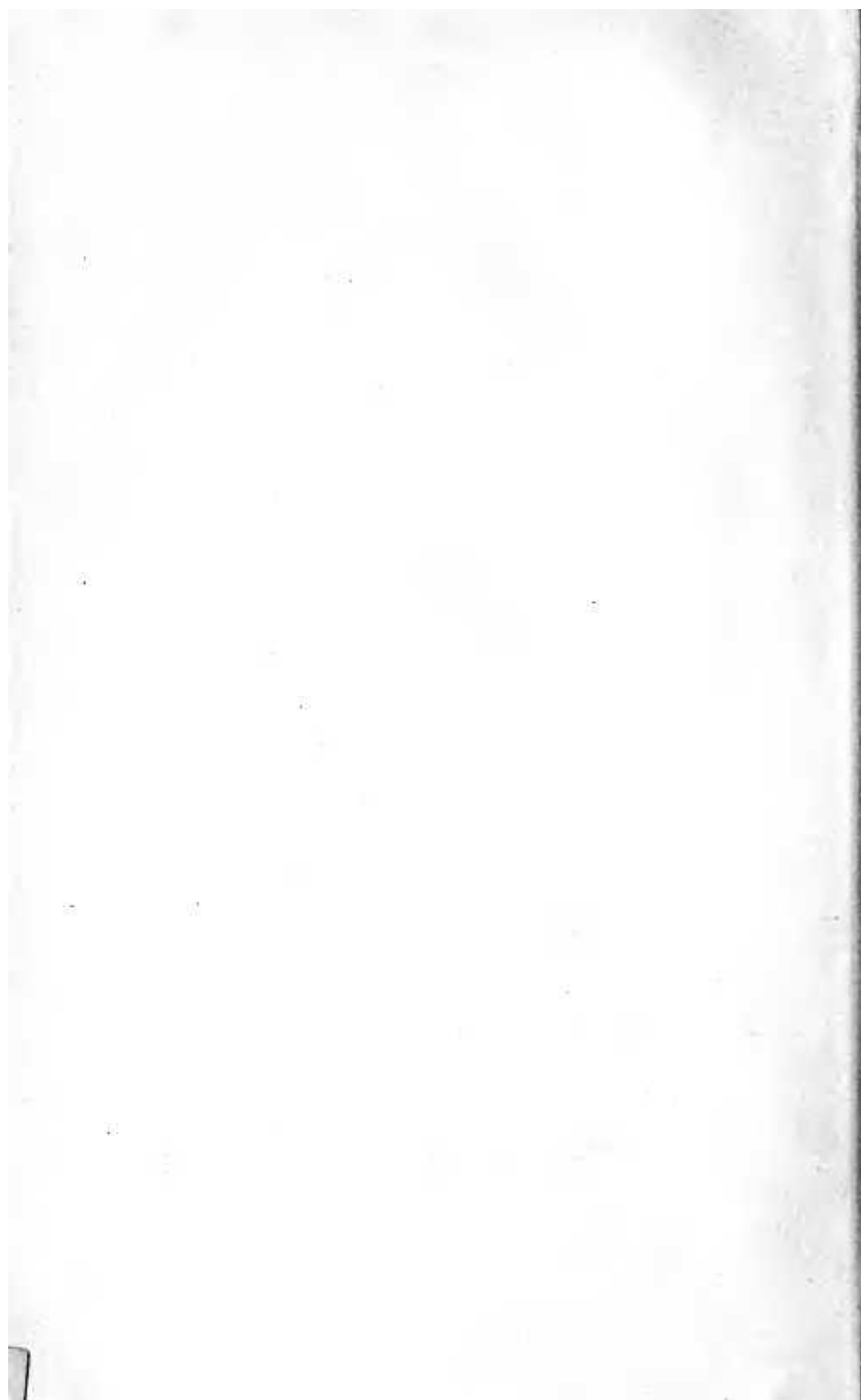
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HERMAN MELVILLE

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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.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY NOTE	5
JOHN MARR AND OTHER POEMS	
JOHN MARR AND OTHER SAILORS	15
BRIDEGROOM DICK	18
TOM DEADLIGHT	43
JACK ROY	46
SEA PIECES	
THE HAGLETS	51
THE ÆOLIAN HARP	63
TO THE MASTER OF THE "METEOR"	66
FAR OFF SHORE	67
THE MAN-OF-WAR HAWK	68
THE FIGURE-HEAD	69
THE GOOD CRAFT "SNOW BIRD"	70
OLD COUNSEL	72
THE TUFT OF KELP	73

THE MALDIVE SHARK	74
TO NED	75
CROSSING THE TROPICS	77
THE BERG	78
THE ENVIABLE ISLES	80
PEBBLES	81

POEMS FROM TIMOLEON

LINES TRACED UNDER AN IMAGE	
OF AMOR THREATENING	85
THE NIGHT MARCH	86
THE RAVAGED VILLA	87
THE NEW ZEALOT TO THE SUN	88
MONODY	90
LONE FOUNTS	91
THE BENCH OF BOORS	92
ART	93
THE ENTHUSIAST	94
SHELLEY'S VISION	96
THE MARCHIONESS OF BRINVILLIERS	97