THE POETS AND POETRY OF CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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The Poets and Poetry of Chester County, Pennsylvania by George Johnston

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GEORGE JOHNSTON

THE POETS AND POETRY OF CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



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Robert Mourdagh Ormand

By his Fathers

See. 25.1890

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(From the Household Edition of Bayard Taylor's Works, published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.]



THE

POETS AND POETRY

OF

CHESTER COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA.

COLLECTED AND EDITED BY

GEORGE JOHNSTON,

RDITOR OF "THE POETS AND POETRY OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND;"
AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF CECIL COUNTY;" CORRESPONDING
MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND,
AND WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, ETC.

Poetry is itself a thing of God;
He made His prophets poets; and the more
We feel of poesie do we become
Like God in love and power.
BALLEY'S FESTUS.

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1890.

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548 P4J6

PREFACE.

In presenting this book to the public, the editor wishes to say that he has been actuated by a desire to make it just what its name indicates, and to give every native and resident poet of Chester County who has written any poetry worthy of preservation a place in its pages, and as comprehensive a biographical sketch as the available data and limited size of the book would permit; so that it would be of historical as well as of literary value. Great care has been taken in selecting the poems to avoid the use of all sectarian or other objectionable matter, and it is believed there is nothing in it to injure the morals of the young or offend the most conscientious Christian. Because of the excessive modesty of some living writers, and the indifference of the friends of some who are dead, it was impossible in a few cases to obtain selections suitable for publication. In order to remedy this discrepancy between the title and the contents, the chapter on other poets has been added. Owing to the comprehensiveness of the title, and, in a few cases, to the scarcity of better material, a few poems have been inserted which otherwise would have been excluded. the manner in which the work has been done, the reader must judge for himself; the editor can only say that he has striven to make the best and most judicious selections from available material, and at the same time to rescue from oblivion the names of the humble, rather than to exalt those of acknowledged ability.

For the reasons above stated it is apparent that the reader should not expect to find a brilliant cluster of poetical gems, but rather, if you will pardon the expression, a garland of flowers in which the simpler's joy and modest violet have been entwined with the

trumpet-flower and fragrant mignonette.

G. J.

ELKTON, MD., February 18, 1890.