

**THE EARLY POETICAL  
WORKS OF  
FRANKLIN E. DENTON**

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The early poetical works of Franklin E. Denton by Franklin Evert Denton

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THE EARLY  
POETICAL WORKS

OF

FRANKLIN E. DENTON

OF CHARDON, OHIO

*Author of "The Glass Dwarf."*

For what is poesy but to create  
From overflocking good or ill, and aim  
At an external life beyond our fate.—BYRON.

Inspired by an ecstatic prescience of the glories beyond the grave,  
we struggle by multifarious combinations among the things and  
thoughts of time, to attain a portion of that loveliness, whose very  
elements, perhaps, appertain to eternity alone.—POPE.

CLEVELAND, OHIO  
WILLIAM W. WILLIAMS

1883.



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## INTRODUCTION.

The Ohio poet comes at a seemingly unpropitious time. This is not a day of poetry, nor a time for poets; a day of intense mental activities, but not on the lines of the imagination. There is boldness of speculation, but not of conception; invention in mechanic arts, discovery of gold and silver mines, but not of poetic creation. It is a day of analysis, detail, finish, arguing a period of mental decline. Originality, strength, vigor are not sought; not missed even, hypercriticism, in the literature of fancy and fiction. There is much polished verse, much finely-wrought fancy, much delicate tracery and attenuated thought. Until this, our youngest, not an original poet of this latest time.

It is a period of research, examination, re-examination. Along the lines of physical science the advance is great, as in the mechanic arts. The spirit of the scientists has become pervasive, and their methods are in universal use. Men are enamored of matter, the laws of matter, of force and the laws of force. The soul of positivism is the soul of to-day. Men will have no more than can be certainly demonstrated.