

**POEMS OF NEW
ENGLAND AND
OF OUR COUNTRY**

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Poems of New England and of Our Country by Jeffery W. Potter

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JEFFREY W. POTTER



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PREFACE.

The author would most respectfully say, that after mature consideration and with a degree of reluctance, he has consented to present to the readers and lovers of poetry a few verses and sentiments he has long cherished as essential to good citizenship, and which he hopes may be found worthy the attention of readers of this volume.

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POEMS OF NEW ENGLAND AND OF OUR COUNTRY.

ROGER WILLIAMS.

RHODE ISLAND'S founder, O how great
Was his good soul for man in thralls !
A million shafts to cloud-land raised,
A million songs to give him praise,
Could never tell the story all.
'T was midnight, and the soul was chained
By royal mandate stern and long ;
But Freedom and great God proclaimed
Such was a universal wrong.
He brought no bow nor saber sheathed
As his protector with wild men ;
But all alone while winter breathed,
He landed with his boat and pen.

The new world's continent from dreams
Was waking to the rosy morn ;
But angry clouds were thickening fast
Like harvest skies before the blast,—
And was it night or really dawn ?
The sorrows of the old world homes
Had blighted all the minds with fear,
Until an exiled life becomes
A paradise in forests drear ;