

**THE FRAILTIES OF
HUMANITY AND
OTHER POEMS**

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The Frailties of Humanity and Other Poems by W. H. Smith

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W. H. SMITH

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THE FRAILTIES OF HUMANITY

AND OTHER POEMS.

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BY
W. H. SMITH, M.D., PH.D.

NEW YORK:
THE IRVING CO., PUBLISHERS,
10 AND 12 VANDERWATER STREET.

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Copyright, 1894,
BY
W. H. SMITH.

18 A. 19. E. H. W.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. A. House". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the top center of the page.

*To all the noble army,
Who toil for others' good
In daily lives that honor
Our common brotherhood,
Thus showing that the spirit
In them hath been imbibed
To make the world the better,
This volume is inscribed.*

512337

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PROEM.

This book is but a simple tome
Designed to cheer the heart and home,
To bring before the mind at ease
The thoughts that profit and that please,
And lead sojourners on the earth
To truths immortal in their worth.

A book when taken at its best
Is nothing but a welcome guest;
With pleasures that can never cloy,
A certain source of perfect joy,
That leaves its nutriment behind
In pabulum to feed the mind.

The one who bows at wisdom's shrine,
And follows in her ways divine,
To knowledge that exalts the mind
Above the others of his kind,
Will learn this truth to comprehend:
Each worthy volume is his friend.

Books are with all their power fraught
The treasure-house of ancient thought,
That bring to view the days of yore,
And reproduce the worthy lore,
As by the magic of the pen
Is kept alive the former men.

We, like the pebbles on the shore,
Are swept before the billow's roar,
A moment's life, a transient breath,
And then an endless rest in death,
Yet age to age the truth will last
As books annihilate the past.

Within their pages may be sought
The gems of pure exalted thought,
With pregnant power to impart
A moral motor to the heart,
Becoming thus for paths untried
The human mentor, chart and guide.

Full armed with power to enthuse
In others' lives exalted views,
The spirit of the master minds
Through authors' tomes forever finds
Its vent in ways designed to please
And make us wisdom's legatees.

For on the conflicts of this age,
Directing yet the early sage
From out the antelucan night
Emits a steady glow of light,
More brilliant than the pyrosome's,
To guide us by his ancient tomes.

Companions in our hours of ease,
Adapted to instruct and please,
Enabling those of humble fate
To hold communion with the great
And master minds upon the earth,
Good books are priceless in their worth.

PROEM.

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In hope this volume may commend
Itself to others as a friend,
In merit meet to play a part,
Ennobling to the mind and heart
Of those who read from day to day,
The author sends it on its way.