WRITINGS OF CHARLES SPRAGUE, NOW FIRST COLLECTED

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Writings of Charles Sprague, Now First Collected by Charles Sprague

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CHARLES SPRAGUE

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OF

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PREFACE.

In presenting here together, so far as they could be found, the writings of one of the most estimable poets and men among us, the Publisher feels that he is meeting a wish, that has been for a long time, and on all sides, loudly expressed, He commenced his undertaking, partly in order that the public might be no longer withheld from their desire, and partly also with the view of anticipating a similar design from another quarter, which he learned to be already entertained, and which was not likely to be accomplished in a manner to satisfy the friends of so favorite an Author. He has carried it through, only not forbidden by the Author himself; - who, he hopes, will look with some complacency on the task, which he would do nothing to promote.

In one respect only can he seem censurable to any. It may be thought that he is thus preclading the hope of receiving a more copious collection, some time hence, from the original hand. If such an objection should occur, he would reply to it by saying, that, on the contrary, he thinks he may thus draw his Author out a little from his rather shy retirement, and, by representing thus much of him, provoke him to show more.

At least, he will give utterance to the hope, in which multitudes join, that the Writer may live long enough to make this volume but a small part of the productions of his graceful and earnest pen.

CONTENTS.

POEMS.

10 25	
CURROSETT, delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard Uni-	
versity, 1929	9
Prize Ode, delivered at the Boston Theatre in 1823, at the Exhibition of a	
Pegeant in Honor of Shakspeare	36
Ode, pronounced at the Centennial Celebration of the Settlement of Boston,	
September, 183)	44
Ode, written for the Fourth Triennial Celebration of the Massachusetts	
Charitable Mechanic Association, 1818	64
Art, an Ode written for the Sixth Triennial Festival of the Massachusetts	
Charitable Mechanic Association, 1824	66
Lines on the Death of M. S. C	68
I see thee still	71
The Family Meeting	73
To my Cigar	75
Look on this Picture "	77
The Winged Worshippers. Addressed to two Swallows that flow into	
Chauncy Place Church during divine Bervice	80
The Funeral	82
Dedication Hymn	84
Fifty Years Ago. For the Fourth of July, 1825	86
The Brothers	88

CONTENTS.

	CUNIENIS,	
		agr.
Lines to a Young Mo	ther	89
Ordination Hymn		90
Edwin Buckingham		02
Mount Auburn		91
Prize Prologue, recited	at the Opening of the Park Theatre, New York, 1821	95
Prize Prologue, recited	at the Opening of the new Philadelphia Theatre, 18:2	98
Prize Address, spoken	at the Opening of the Salom Theatre, 1835	1:4
Prize Address, recited	at the Opening of the Philadelphia Tacutre, 1828 .	105
Prize Address, recited	at the Opening of the Portsmouth Theatre, 1836	1.8
Address, intended for	the Opening of the Theatre at New Orleans	111
Ode, for the Fourth o	of July, 1837	114
Bong, written for the	Parting Dinner given to Lafayette by the Massachu-	
ootte Churitable M	fechanic Association	115
Song, for a Festival i	in Panouil Half	117
Ode, for the Amiver	ary Pestival of the Washington Light Infantry	119
Death of an Infant		121
To Montague, at third	ty-three	192
	ORATIONS.	
American Independent	e. An Oration pronounced before the Inh bitnate of	
Boston, July 4, 18	95	3
On Intemperance. As	Address delivered before the Massechusetta Society	
for the Suppression	n of Intemperance, 1827	31

POEMS.