

**VERSATILITIES**

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Versatilities by R. H. Newell

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**R. H. NEWELL**

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BY

R. H. NEWELL.

("ORPHEUS C. KERR.")

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SEVERAL pieces of verse included in the graver half of the present collection were published some seven or eight years ago in a little volume, which, for private reasons, was almost immediately withdrawn from print. Of them, and of the greater number of "Poems" forming the first division of this book, the writer deems it unnecessary to say more, by way of introduction, than that they have all (with the exception of two or three self-betraying bits of youthful fancy) been unaffectedly spontaneous with him, — the inspirations of scenes, events, characters, sentiments, and intellectual conceptions specifically distinguishing themselves to his apprehension as presentments naturally demanding a poetic, rather than a prosaic, form of expression.

The "Satires and Burlesques" should possess the merit of amiability at least; for, while aimed chiefly at various superficialities and false pretensions in politics, literature, art, sentiment, and morals, their instigation has been, and is, principally the ludicrous, rather than the sinister, side of the subject satirized or burlesqued.

That the only popular humor of thought and personal character which is distinctively American, and that the particular imported humor which has become partially national with us by marked political and social adoption, seem to merit some illustration in commemorative rhyme, must be the placation of the æsthetical

taste possibly taking exception to the character-sketches grouped under the forewarning caption of "Illiteraria."

With these brief preliminary notes the volume they introduce is submitted to the mercy of the friendly and the indifferent, by one who, having had the honor to experience the indulgence of the former in his prose, trusts that the title of his present venture may be esteemed sufficiently modest to exempt the latter from disturbance by his verse.

NEW YORK, April, 1871.



# CONTENTS.



## POEMS.

	PAGE
THE MOUNTAIN PATH . . . . .	1
PICCIOLA . . . . .	6
ASPASIA . . . . .	9
PSYCHE . . . . .	13
SPRING VIOLETS UNDER THE SNOW . . . . .	16
LINCOLN . . . . .	18
ALONE . . . . .	23
A RUSSIAN LEGEND . . . . .	26
THE WORLD'S HISTORY . . . . .	30
THE PERFECT HUSBAND . . . . .	32
THE CONSECRATION . . . . .	35
THE MADMAN . . . . .	41
DOLCE FAR NIENTE . . . . .	51
OUR GUIDING STARS . . . . .	54
A SONG FOR THE UNSUNG . . . . .	56
THE PRISONER OF FORTRESS MONROE (1866) . . . . .	59
COSMO-BELLA . . . . .	62
DITHYRAMBUS . . . . .	64
BATTLE-NIGHT . . . . .	66
SUMMER . . . . .	70

THE GENERAL'S WIFE . . . . .	72
THE MAN OF FEELING . . . . .	74
JOHN BROWN . . . . .	77
THE FALLS . . . . .	82
LEONORE . . . . .	86
THE MIRROR . . . . .	89
THE BOATSWAIN'S CALL . . . . .	92
THE MIDNIGHT WATCH . . . . .	95
THE ROMANCE OF THE OLD . . . . .	101
MIDSUMMER . . . . .	104
ENGLAND TO AMERICA (1861) . . . . .	106
THE DEATH OF THE ROSES . . . . .	111
THE FALLEN LEAF . . . . .	113
NO MORE . . . . .	114
THE HOPES OF DAYS GONE BY . . . . .	116
WINTER . . . . .	117
THE ANCIENT CAPTAIN . . . . .	119
CHRISTMAS EVE . . . . .	121
THE DYING YEAR . . . . .	129
THE LAST DAY . . . . .	132
SEMPER FIDELIS . . . . .	137
THE VERSE . . . . .	138

## SATIRES AND BURLESQUES.

A FABLE FOR STRATEGISTS . . . . .	141
BYRON CHOLER . . . . .	150
THE HAIRESS . . . . .	152
ADVICE TO A MAID. BY AN OLD BACHELOR . . . . .	157

## CONTENTS.

vii

THE REJECTED "NATIONAL HYMNS" . . . . .	161
AGE BLUNTLY CONSIDERED . . . . .	167
QUE VOULEZ-VOUS? . . . . .	169
DYING OUT . . . . .	172
THE AMERICAN TRAVELLER . . . . .	175
THE MAUDLIN MUSE . . . . .	178
WOMAN'S HEART. BY SAIRA NEVERMAIR . . . . .	181
COLUMBIA'S AGONY. (1862.) BY MARTIN FARQUHAR TUP—R . . . . .	184
"TRUE STORY." BY MRS. H—T B—CH—R ST—WE . . . . .	187
A TRUCE . . . . .	189
THE EDITOR'S WOOING . . . . .	194
THE POETRY OF LIFE . . . . .	196
STICKING TO HIM. . . . .	197
DISENCHANTED . . . . .	200
THE NEUTRAL BRITISH GENTLEMAN . . . . .	204
A COMPROMISE . . . . .	207

## ILLITERARIA.

SOUTHWESTERN SKETCHES, BY "THE ARKANSAW NIGHT-  
INGALE."

THE BEWITCHED TERRIER . . . . .	211
TUSCALOOSA SAM . . . . .	214
'LIGE SIMMONS'S DOG . . . . .	218
THE PHANTOM GOAT . . . . .	223
PAUDEN. BY RAPHAEL ST. JOHN . . . . .	227
DE GREAT HALLELUGERUM. BY A "CONTRABAND" REFUGEE. (1863.) . . . . .	231