VERSES

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Verses by Andrews Norton

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ANDREWS NORTON

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BY

ANDREWS NORTON.

1853.



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VERSES.

ON LISTENING TO A CRICKET.

I Love, thou little chirping thing, To hear thy melancholy noise; Though thou to Fancy's ear may sing Of summer past and fading joys.

Thou canst not now drink dew from flowers, Nor sport along the traveller's path; But, through the winter's weary hours, Shalt warm thee at my lonely hearth.

And when my lamp's decaying beam But dimly shows the lettered page, Rich with some ancient poet's dream, Or wisdom of a purer age,— Then will I listen to thy sound,
And, musing o'er the embers pale
With whitening ashes strewed around,
The forms of memory unveil;

Recall the many-colored dreams

That Fancy fondly weaves for youth,
When all the bright illusion seems

The pictured promises of Truth;

Perchance observe the fittul light,
And its faint flashes round the room,
And think some pleasures feebly bright
May lighten thus life's varied gloom.

I love the quiet midnight hour,
When Care and Hope and Passion sleep,
And Reason with untroubled power
Can her late vigils duly keep.

I love the night; and sooth to say, Before the merry birds that sing In all the glare and noise of day, Prefer the cricket's grating wing.

A SUMMER NIGHT.

How sweet the summer gales of night,
That blow when all is peaceful round,
As if some spirit's downy flight
Swept silent through the blue profound!

How sweet at midnight to recline

Where flows their cool and fragrant stream!

There half repeat some glowing line,

There court each wild and fairy dream;

Or idly mark the volumed clouds

Their broad deep mass of darkness throw,
When, as the moon her radiance shrouds,
Their changing sides with silver glow;

Or see where, from that depth of shade,
The ceaseless lightning, faintly bright,
In silence plays, as if afraid
To break the deep repose of night;