

**THE PLACE OF MY
DESIRE AND
OTHER POEMS**

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The Place of My Desire and Other Poems by Edith Colby Banfield

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PREFACE.

EDITH COLBY BANFIELD was born February 14, 1870, in Washington, D. C. She was the daughter of Everett C. Banfield and Anne S. Fiske, the only sister of Helen Jackson ("H. H."). She was graduated from Vassar College in 1892. A large part of her life was spent at the old home in Wolfeboro, on the shore of Lake Winnepesaukee, but during the three years before her death her home was in Colorado Springs, where she died suddenly, March 30, 1903.

The poems in this little book have been chosen from among the papers left at her death. A few have already been published: "Glamour" in the *Atlantic Monthly*, "Homesickness" and "Night on the Desert" in the *Century*, others in the *Outlook*, the *Dial*, and elsewhere, — but most of them were being held by her to be moulded into more perfect form. Any alteration by another hand than hers was not to be considered, and such poems

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and parts of poems as are here brought together stand, word for word, as she left them. It is not, therefore, as finished or even as mature work that they should be judged. Many of them were written during her college days,—naïve, light, incomplete perhaps, though never crude and never insincere,—while at their best they are but the tentative and fragmentary expression of an artist who was still striving for mastery of her chosen instrument. In the attainment of such mastery her hand was stayed, but the little it had wrought comes to us, in its exquisite grace, in its strong yet gentle beauty, in the simplicity of its complete sincerity, as the expression of a rare and lovely spirit.

E. E. M.

E. W. M.

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