

**RHYMES OF THE
CENTURIES AND
OTHER VERSES**

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Rhymes of the Centuries and Other Verses by Frank Mortimer Hawes

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FRANK MORTIMER HAWES

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Rhymes of the Centuries

AND OTHER

Verses

BY

Frank Mortimer Hawes



DAMRELL & UPHAM
"Old Corner Bookstore"

BOSTON

1894

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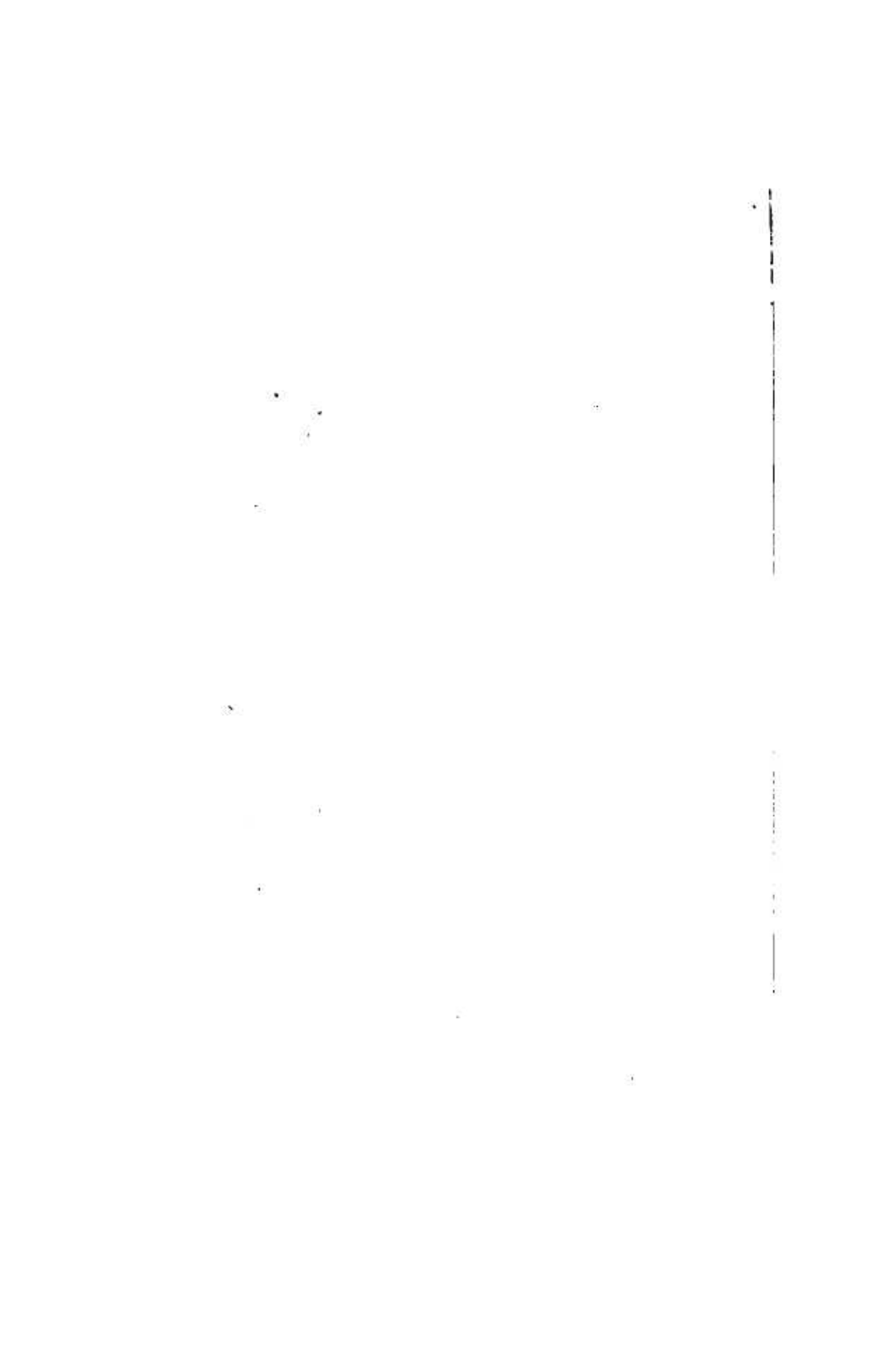
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RHYMES OF THE CENTURIES.

THE NORSEMEN: A PRELUDE.

In musings oft at eve,
In dreamings of the day,
Outstretched upon the beach,
With a pillow made of sand
And by ocean breezes fanned,
I have gazed across the Bay,
Far out upon the deep
Where stately vessels creep,
And the fishing-smacks come in
From the Banks so far away.

Thus, as the lights grow dim,
Perchance with drowsy eyes,
I have seen, or seemed to see,
A fleet go sailing past,
With strange pennons at the mast,

That filled me with surprise.
And as they nearer drew,
With their dragon-beaks in view,
I have heard the din of shields
And the clash of spears arise.

The rowers hold their course
Right up the shallow Bay,
And soon the black hulls stand
Upon the shelly beach,
High above the billow's reach.
And lo! without delay,
With shout and jargon strange,
O'er hill and dale they range,
Astonished, and delighted
As children at their play.

And now the merry throng
Have returned from wood and wold,
Bearing vessels huge and rude,
Filled with grapes, a precious store.
In gay groups along the shore,
Decked with garlands manifold —
Pale asters, gentian flowers,
Bright leaves from autumn's bowers —
They gladly lend their ears
To the marvels that are told.

