

**POEMS BY JOHN
HAY. [1913]**

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Poems by John Hay. [1913] by John Hay

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JOHN HAY

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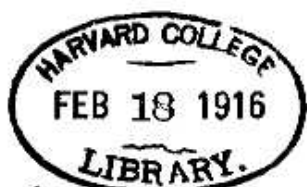
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THE PIKE COUNTY BALLADS.

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JIM BLUDSO,

OF THE PRAIRIE BELLE.

WALL, no! I can't tell whar he lives,
Becase he don't live, you see ;

Leastways, he 's got out of the habit
Of livin' like you and me.

Whar have you been for the last three year
That you have n't heard folks tell

How Jimmy Bludso passed in his checks
The night of the Prairie Belle?

He were n't no saint, — them engineers
Is all pretty much alike, —

One wife in Natchez-under-the-Hill
And another one here, in Pike ;
A keerless man in his talk was Jim,
And an awkward hand in a row,
But he never flunked, and he never lied,—
I reckon he never knowed how.

And this was all the religion he had,—
To treat his engine well ;
Never be passed on the river
To mind the pilot's bell ;
And if ever the Prairie Belle took fire,—
A thousand times he swore,
He 'd hold her nozzle agin the bank
Till the last soul got ashore.

All boats has their day on the Mississip,
And her day come at last,—