

**POEMS WRITTEN DURING THE
PROGRESS OF THE ABOLITION
QUESTION IN THE UNITED
STATES, BETWEEN THE YEARS
1830-1838**

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Poems Written During the Progress of the Abolition Question in the United States, Between the Years 1830-1838 by John G. Whittier

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JOHN G. WHITTIER

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THE MORNING DREAM.*

BY COWPER.

'Twas in the glad season of spring,
Asleep, at the dawn of the day,
I dream'd what I cannot but sing,
So pleasant it seem'd as I lay.

I dream'd that on ocean afloat,
Far hence to the westward I sail'd,
While the billows high lifted the boat,
And the fresh blowing breeze never fail'd.

In the steerage a woman I saw—
Such at least was the form that she wore—
Whose beauty impressed me with awe,
Ne'er taught us by woman before.

She sat, and a shield at her side
Shed light like a sun on the waves,
And smiling divinely, she cried,
'I go to make freemen of slaves.'—

Then raising her voice to a strain,
The sweetest that ear ever heard,
She sang of the slave's broken chain,
Wherever her glory appeared.

* In explanation of the Plate.

Some clouds which had over us hung,
Fled, chased by her melody clear ;
And methought, while she liberty sung,
'Twas liberty only to hear.

Thus swiftly dividing the flood,
To a slave-cultured island we came,
Where a demon, her enemy, stood,
Oppression his terrible name.

In his hand, as a sign of his sway,
A scourge hung with lashes he bore,
And stood looking out for his prey,
From Africa's sorrowful shore.

But soon as approaching the land,
That angel-like woman he view'd,
The scourge he let fall from his hand,*
With the blood of his subjects imbued.

I saw him both sicken and die,
And the moment the monster expired,
Heard shouts that ascended the sky,
From thousands with rapture inspired.

Awaking, how could I but muse
At what such a dream should betide ?
But soon my ear caught the glad news,
Which served my weak thought for a guide ;

That Britannia, renown'd o'er the waves,
For the hatred she ever has shown
To the black-robed rulers of slaves,
Resolves to have none of her own.

1785.

* See Frontispiece.

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OF THE
ABOLITION QUESTION
IN THE
UNITED STATES,
BETWEEN THE YEARS
1830 AND 1838.
BY
John G. Whittier.

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POEMS BY WHITTIER.

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