

**INDECISION: A TALE
OF THE FAR WEST:
AND OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649612123

Indecision: A Tale of the Far West: And Other Poems by J. K. Mitchell

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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J. K. MITCHELL

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INDÉCISION,

TALE OF THE FAR WEST;

AND

OTHER POEMS.

BY J. K. MITCHELL, M.D.

"Hurrah, for the Prairie! no blight on its breeze,
No mist from the mountain, no shadow from trees;
It steals, incense-loaded, that gale, from the west,
As bees from the prairie-rose fly to the nest."

PHILADELPHIA:

E. L. CAREY & A. HART.

MDCCCXXXIX.

at 2.46 p. 3.15

1863, April 30.
Bill of
Hon. John G. Barry.
(Class of 1815.)

ENTERED according to act of congress, in the year 1838, by E. L. CAREY & A. HART, in the clerk's office of the district court of the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia:
T. K. & P. G. COLLINS, Printers,
No. 1 Lodge Alley.

DEDICATED

TO N. CHAPMAN, M.D.

DEAR Doctor, though I hae the will,
I fear I want poetic skill

To do ye muckle credit;

But yet I'll imp my youthfu' wing,
And o' my guid preceptor sing,

Though ye y'ersel may dread it.

I've aften wished for Burns's pen,
And thochts frae Ramsay's fairy glen,

To do ye fitting honour,

But tak the will and no the deed,
My muse, the jade, awa will speed,

Sae I maun e'en get on her.

DEDICATION.

Ah! weel I mind when first I saw
Ye laying down the morbid law
 O' nature to the student;
To dry detail and dusty lore,
Brocht frae y'er inexhausted store,
 A new enchantment yon lent.

Frae worthies o' the aulden time,
To those wha yet were i' their prime,
 Ye drew y'er rich resources;
And last, not least, frae y'er ain sel,
Baith thochts and words o' magic spell
 Adorn'd y'er ripe discourses.

Wi' easy grace and potent sense,
Clear order, a' without pretence,
 And learning without shew, sir,
Ye charm'd the eye, and pleas'd the ear,
And made y'er thochts sae richly clear,
 The darkest truth did glow, sir.

DEDICATION.

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But faith, I scarce believ'd my eyes;
Ye took me, sir, wi' sair surprise,
 When mang y'er friends I saw ye
Let loose the wit by science chain'd—
Humour that nae ane ever pain'd—
 Oh! thus I'd like to draw ye!

They little ken ye wha hae known
Y'er science and y'er skill alone,
 Though they are mair than ample;
The racy pun, rich repartee,
The gushing joke frae malice free,
 Wad na complete the sample.—

But better far, a heart that ne'er
Did o'er a human ill forbear
 To heave a feeling sigh,
That readily forgave a foe,
And never dealt a jealous blow,
 In keenest rivalry.

DEDICATION.

Mair I might say, but this I fear
E'en frae a friend ye'll hardly bear,
Sae I'll nae mair offend ye;
Though if ae man beside y'ersel
Says that the truth I donna tell,
That man has never kenn'd ye.

J. K. MITCHELL.

INTRODUCTION.

IN the midst of arduous professional duties, imaginative composition, like music or painting, prunes the wing of overloaded reason for a more vigorous flight. Written for such a purpose, and, consequently, at short, infrequent, and irregular periods of time, the following poem must necessarily bear the marks of haste and interrupted labour.

While he may be permitted thus to account for some of the defects of his work, the author does not expect to be shielded from the criticism to which every public production is necessarily liable; but he thinks that the unusual circumstances under which the task has been completed,