

**GLEANINGS FROM
MERRIMAC VALLEY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649594184

Gleanings from Merrimac Valley by Miss Rebecca I. Davis

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MISS REBECCA I. DAVIS

**GLEANINGS FROM
MERRIMAC VALLEY**

TO THE
Labers of Whittier's Poems,
ESPECIALLY THE COUNTESS AND SNOW-BOUND,
THIS LITTLE VOLUME
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

A CERTAIN writer has said, "The Merrimac Valley is to New England, what Greece is to the world,—the cradle of the great and the good, the birth-place of art, genius, song, oratory, and moral greatness.

"So many are the interesting reminiscences, traditions and histories of our river, it would take a lifetime to write them all, and he who would perform that task, would die in love with his labor, and seek no better reward, if the spirits of the dead linger about the earth, than to have his eternal allotment where he could see the bright waters of the Merrimac flow to the sea."

Receiving our birth upon its enchanted borders, we have listened from childhood to its romances, histories, and traditions, with marvelous interest; and among our gleanings, sketched briefly the lives of two individuals made famous in history, by the allusion to them of our townsman Poet in his works; viz.: Miss Harriet Livermore, the half-unwelcome guest of Snow-bound, and the Countess, Mrs. Francis de Vipart, to both of which additions have here been made.

We had no idea when writing them, of placing them on permanent record in book form, but the unexpected

favor which they have received, together with the advice of friends that they be thus preserved with other gleanings, gathered as we have wandered along the banks of our charming river, in earlier and later years, we deem sufficient apology.

It is with many misgivings that we venture upon the public our simple work, trusting, if it possesses any real merit, our friends will not fail to discover it, asking a kindly forbearance for all imperfections as well.

To the critic, we would say, no one is more aware of the existence of them than ourselves, reminding them in the language of Pope:—

“Whoever thinks a faultless piece to see,
 Thinks what ne'er was, nor is, nor e'er can be.
 In every work, regard the writer's end,
 Since none can compass more than they intend.
 And if the means be just, the conduct true,
 Applause in spite of trivial fault is due.”

To the many friends who have aided us in our work, by words of encouragement, subscription, etc., we tender our sincere thanks, hoping that the perusal of the following simple volume may not be wholly without pleasure or profit.

R. I. D.

EAST HAVERHILL, MASS., Sept., 1881.

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