

**THE MASQUERADE
AND OTHER POEMS**

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The Masquerade and other poems by John Godfrey Saxe

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JOHN GODFREY SAXE

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BY

JOHN GODFREY SAXE.



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1866.



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DEDICATION.

TO

HON. ISAAC F. REDFIELD, LL.D.

(LATE CHIEF JUSTICE OF VERMONT.)

DEAR SIR:—I dedicate this book to you, not merely that it may be graced with the name of one of the most eminent jurists of our country, but that, while I make mention of your private worth and elegant literary culture, I may at the same time inform my readers (*loquor gloriose*) that so estimable a man and so good a judge, as well of literature as of law, is my personal friend, and not ashamed to be my Mæcenas.

Of the first poem in the collection (which I have placed in front chiefly because it is the longest, and furnishes a pleasant title to the volume) the plot was suggested by an incident in real life. The tale of "Miralda" is based on a popular legend, of which an excellent prose version may be found in Ballou's History of Cuba. If, in my rendering of Jean Grasset's comical story of the parrot, I have taken great liberty with the French poem, I trust it will be found to have lost nothing except its prolixity and coarseness. As to the imitations of Béranger (I have not ventured to call them translations) so many clever hands have failed of entire success in

the same agreeable endeavor, that I may submit them without apology for their imperfections.

While I am aware, my dear Judge, that, with your severe taste in *belles-lettres*, the faults of the book cannot pass unobserved, I console myself with the reflection that no one will view them more indulgently, or more generously seek for excellencies to excuse them.

I am, dear sir,

Very truly your friend,

JOHN GODFREY SAXE.

ALBANY, N. Y., 1868.





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