

# **POETICAL WORKS**

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Poetical works by John Sterling

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**JOHN STERLING**

**POETICAL  
WORKS**



THE  
POETICAL WORKS  
OF  
JOHN STERLING.

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Feeling, Thought, and Fancy be  
Gentle sister Graces three ;  
If these prove averse to me,  
They will punish—pardon Ye!

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51742  
1901

FIRST AMERICAN EDITION.

PHILADELPHIA :  
HERMAN HOOKER,  
CORNER OF CHESNUT AND FIFTH STREETS.

.....  
1842.

## TO THE READER.

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DURING the last five or six years the readers of Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine have been from time to time delighted by the appearance in that popular miscellany of various papers under the signature of ARCHÆUS. Among them has been a series in prose, entitled *Legendary Lore*, from which *The Onyx Ring*, a story of thrilling interest, and several other essays and tales, have been reprinted in some of the best periodicals of this country. But superior to the prose articles—beautiful and highly wrought as these are—are the author's poetical writings, distinguished alike for purity of thought, delicacy of fancy, depth and tenderness of feeling, and elegance of diction.

A collection of these poems, with one much longer than any that had appeared in Blackwood's Magazine, entitled *The Scpton's Daughter*, was published in a volume in London, in 1839, and it was then discovered that they were written by JOHN STERLING, in early life a clergyman, and latterly a student in philosophy and man of letters. Since 1839 he has written his *Hymns of a Hermit*, and several other poems, which are included in this first American edition of his works.

JOHN STERLING is a poet of high powers. He is a man of genius, a quiet, chaste scholar, and a most skilful artist. His writings belong to that comparatively small class which constitute the standard literature of our language. The educated and the right minded read them and become wiser and better. "They will live, for a spirit is in them."

In the last few years, a purer poetical taste than had before prevailed, has been growing up among both writers and readers in America, and I doubt not therefore that this book will be welcomed with that gladness which its unobtrusive worth should inspire.

RUFUS W. GRISWOLD.

PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 1842.

## P R E F A C E.

---

WILD Flowers, and Leaves that mystic juice distil,  
Unsorted, uncombined, one basket fill :  
But if in each be aught of good or fair,  
Ask not too nicely why 'tis here or there :  
And meanest weeds to some perhaps recall  
A field beloved, or childish garden small.





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