

**SELECTED
POEMS**

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Selected poems by Walt Whitman

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WALT WHITMAN

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BY
WALT WHITMAN

New York
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1892

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WALT WHITMAN.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

THIS edition of Mr. Whitman's poems is, on his part, a concession to friendship. He has not abandoned his position, but has yielded to urgent request. Several eclectic editions of "Leaves of Grass" have been issued in England and Scotland, most of them with his half-willing consent. Here, where he can assert his rights, he never has permitted one such to appear.

With regard to the editor, the volume is partially a concession to the spirit which banished "Leaves of Grass" from Massachusetts. It cannot, however, be styled a concession to the New England critics who begrudge any good thing which comes out of Manhattan. It is intended rather as a justification of New England's leaders of thought, who have consistently appreciated Mr. Whitman's genius from the first.

My intention has been to offer, in a conventional form, those of his poems which are held to be most nearly in harmony with the poetic era (though really they have a character quite apart from it), and to add selections from his more distinctive chantings. With the choice and arrangement of the poems Mr. Whitman has had nothing to do, save in the most general way of approval.

I sincerely believe this little collection will be a revelation even to those who know their Whitman. It seems to me that a defective lyrical sense can be the only excuse for those who do not find him wonderfully rhythmic. Some may declare that I have tried to chisel a statuette out of a particularly rugged boulder, but if they will admit that the carving has been neatly done, they are welcome to call the book a paradox.

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