

**THE POET AMONG THE
HILLS: OLIVER WENDELL
HOLMES IN BERKSHIRE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649675289

The Poet Among the Hills: Oliver Wendell Holmes in Berkshire by J. E. A. Smith

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J. E. A. SMITH

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OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

In 1844.

THE POET AMONG THE HILLS.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES
IN BERKSHIRE.

His Berkshire Poems, some of them now first published, with
Historic and Descriptive Incidents Concerning the
Poems, the Poet, and his Literary Neighbors.
His Poetic, Personal and Ancestral Relations to the County.

BY
J. E. A. SMITH.

"The memory of great men is the noblest inheritance of their country."

PITTSFIELD, MASS. :
GEORGE BLATCHFORD.

1895.

PS1981
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“Whatever strengthens our local attachments is favorable both to individual and to national character. Our home, our birthplace, our native land,—think for a while what the virtues are which arise out of the feelings connected with these words, . . . Show me a man who cares no more for one place than another, and I will show you in that same person one who loves nothing but himself. Beware of those who are homeless by choice : you have no hold on a human being whose affections are without a tap-root.”—SOUTHEY : *The Doctor*.

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PROLOGUE.

Why and Because—Dr. Holmes' Berkshire Poetry Characterized—What Pittsfield is Proud of—Fable of a Socialist Community—Berkshire Scenery—A Haunt for Literary Lions—Melville and Hawthorne—Longfellow, the Old Clock on the Stairs, and Roaring Brook—Charles Sumner and Fanny Kemble—Dr. Holmes and the Newspaper Press.

ONE who glances at the title-page of this little volume will naturally ask: "What is its object? Why should it be compiled at all?" Impertinent questions deserve no answer; and queries like these would be impertinent if made about a work in the ordinary course of literature, where an author's will is autocratic in conferring titles. But this diverges from that course in a manner which limits the editor's independence—to say nothing of autocracy. Thus the supposed questions, being natural, are pertinent; and, being pertinent, are to be answered.