

**BOWDOIN VERSE: A COLLECTION OF
POEMS CONTRIBUTED BY STUDENTS
AND ALUMNI TO THE UNDERGRADUATE
PUBLICATIONS OF BOWDOIN WITHIN
THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS**

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Bowdoin Verse: A Collection of Poems Contributed by Students and Alumni to the Undergraduate Publications of Bowdoin Within the past Fifteen Years by John Clair Minot

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JOHN CLAIR MINOT

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A COLLECTION OF POEMS CONTRIBUTED
BY STUDENTS AND ALUMNI TO THE
UNDERGRADUATE PUBLICATIONS
OF BOWDOIN WITHIN THE
PAST FIFTEEN YEARS

Selected and Published by
JOHN CLAIR MINOT
OF THE CLASS OF 1896

1907
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Augusta, Maine

Introduction

THIS little volume contains a few more than one hundred poems which have appeared within the past fifteen years in the undergraduate publications of Bowdoin College, some of them contributed by alumni but most of them written by those who were at the time students at the college. Nearly all of them are in serious vein, contrary perhaps to the popular conception of what is most common in college verse. In selecting them it has been the aim to take not only those which seemed of exceptional merit, but also particularly those in which the theme was the college or some phase of college life.

There are in the collection a number of poems by alumni of recognized literary ability — Isaac Bassett Choate '62, Professor Chapman '66, Judge Webster '67, Professor Johnson '74, and Arlo Bates '76 — but it should be understood that in each instance these, as well as all other poems in the volume, have been especially contributed to the undergraduate publications in recent years and that they have not

appeared elsewhere. It may be that as the verses of some of the younger contributors are read the opinion will be expressed that the fires of poetic genius have burned very low on Bowdoin's campus since the time when Longfellow gained his early inspiration beneath its whispering pines. Be that as it may, it is hoped the reader will find even in the work of these younger writers an occasional touch of genuine poetry. It will not be denied that much of their verse is graceful; nor does it lack honesty, that prime essential of all sound art.

That several of my own productions are included in the following pages is something for which I pray to be forgiven. Their appearance here may be regarded as a concession to the memory of the time when I contributed many such to the *Orient* in the years before the *Quill* came into existence. I wish to express my warm appreciation of the encouragement and kind suggestions given me by Professor Chapman.

J. C. M.

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

March 1, 1907.

*C*OME, read to me some poem,
Some simple and heartfelt lay,
That shall soothe this restless feeling
And banish the thoughts of day.

*Not from the grand old masters,
Not from the bards sublime,
Whose distant footsteps echo
Through the corridors of Time.*

*For, like strains of martial music,
Their mighty thoughts suggest
Life's endless toil and endeavor;
And to-night I long for rest.*

*Read from some humbler poet,
Whose songs gushed from his heart,
As showers from the clouds of summer
Or tears from the eyelids start.*

Longfellow, '25

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