

POEMS

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Poems by Mrs. Mary Bayard Clarke

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MRS. MARY BAYARD CLARKE

POEMS



P o e m s

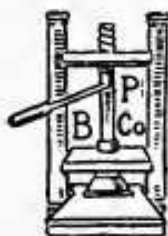
BY

Mrs. Mary Bayard Clarke

With a Sketch of Her Life

BY

Winchester Hall



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PREFACE.

THE reason for assuming to prepare an edition of Mary Bayard Clarke's poems and a sketch of her life, may be gathered from the following paragraph in a letter to the undersigned, dated July 12, 1861:

"There is one thing I have often tried to ask you in my letters, to promise me you will do for me; but I have a strange reticence that often prevents my saying what I long to say, and I never could get up my courage before to ask you to be my literary executor.

"The war has stopped the publication of a volume of poems and perhaps it will not, in my lifetime, see the light; if not, the MSS. will be found sealed and directed to you, with many other poems which I do not care to publish myself; but which I leave to you to do with as you choose. I may live many years, but as I can never be well again, and as I have no settled home, I feel as if I should like to have some things understood."

It may be mentioned that to this request there was added, after her death, the wish of her children and their proffered aid and sympathy in the undertaking.

While I have assurance the poems will take more than an ephemeral place in American song, I have misgivings that in the sketch of her life I have not entirely succeeded in conveying to the mind of the reader, a photographic impress of a life in which domestic duties were fulfilled thoroughly, and with rare self-abnegation—which was essentially a life of labor amid much privation, and long years of ill-health, all borne with patient resignation; a life enriched with varied and extensive readings and researches in languages, literature, and science, yet unobtrusive of its attainments, and liberal and unassuming in its opinions.

WINCHESTER HALL.

POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND,
August, 1905.

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