

**THE BEST SHORT POEMS OF THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY: BEING
THE TWENTY-FIVE BEST SHORT
POEMS AS SELECTED BY BALLOT
BY COMPETENT CRITICS**

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The Best Short Poems of the Nineteenth Century: Being the Twenty-five Best Short Poems as Selected by Ballot by Competent Critics by William S. Lord

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WILLIAM S. LORD

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W. H. G.

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The Best Short Poems of
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Short Poems as Selected by
Ballot by Competent Critics

COMPILED BY

WILLIAM S. LORD

AUTHOR OF "BLUE AND GOLD," "JIGGLS AND JANGLE," ETC.



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NOTE.

TWO hundred representative literary people were recently asked for a list of "twenty-five of the best short poems (limit fifty lines) written in the English language in the nineteenth century." This request met with a ready response. Lists were received from prominent poets, critics, editors, educators, and others interested in poetry. These lists were carefully prepared. The names of those who so kindly gave valuable time and study in preparing them would be given had not the request been made, in a number of instances, that the list submitted be considered confidential. This emphasizes the value of the verdict as being a perfectly free expression of the minds best qualified to judge of the merits of the poetry of the period.

No individual list is given. The twenty-five poems which received the highest number of votes will, it is hoped, make an acceptable "nut-shell anthology." They are arranged in order according to the ballots cast, "The Chambered Nautilus," which received the highest vote, being number one on the list.

A supplementary list of two hundred poems is arranged alphabetically by authors. These poems received votes, but none received enough to place it among the first twenty-five.

It is, perhaps, worthy of note that when these lists were prepared Mr. Kipling had not written "Recessional," which would undoubtedly, at this time, be placed well among the first.

The names of Lowell, Longfellow and Whittier do

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Note.

not appear, while Bryant is represented by "To a Waterfowl," and not by "Thanatopsis." America's bards number five, while Tennyson's name appears four times and Wordsworth's name three times.

In the supplementary list Longfellow is represented by nine titles, Lowell by ten, Tennyson by fifteen, Wordsworth by six and Whittier by five.

Dr. Holmes's "Chambered Nautilus," Mrs. Howe's "Battle-Hymn of the Republic," and "Emerson's Concord Fight" are published by permission of Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., the publishers of the works of Emerson and Holmes and of Mrs. Howe's poems. "Crossing the Bar" is reprinted from The Macmillan Company's complete edition of Lord Tennyson's poems.

W. S. L.

March, 1899, Evanston, Ill.