

**TALES OF A WAYSIDE INN.
POETICAL WORKS WITH
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AND CRITICAL
NOTES IN SIX VOLUMES.
VOLUME IV**

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Tales of a Wayside Inn. Poetical works with bibliographical and critical notes in six volumes.
Volume IV by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

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POETICAL WORKS WITH
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Riverside Edition

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LONGFELLOW, WITH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL
AND CRITICAL NOTES

IN SIX VOLUMES

VOLUME IV.



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TALES OF A WAYSIDE INN

BY

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW



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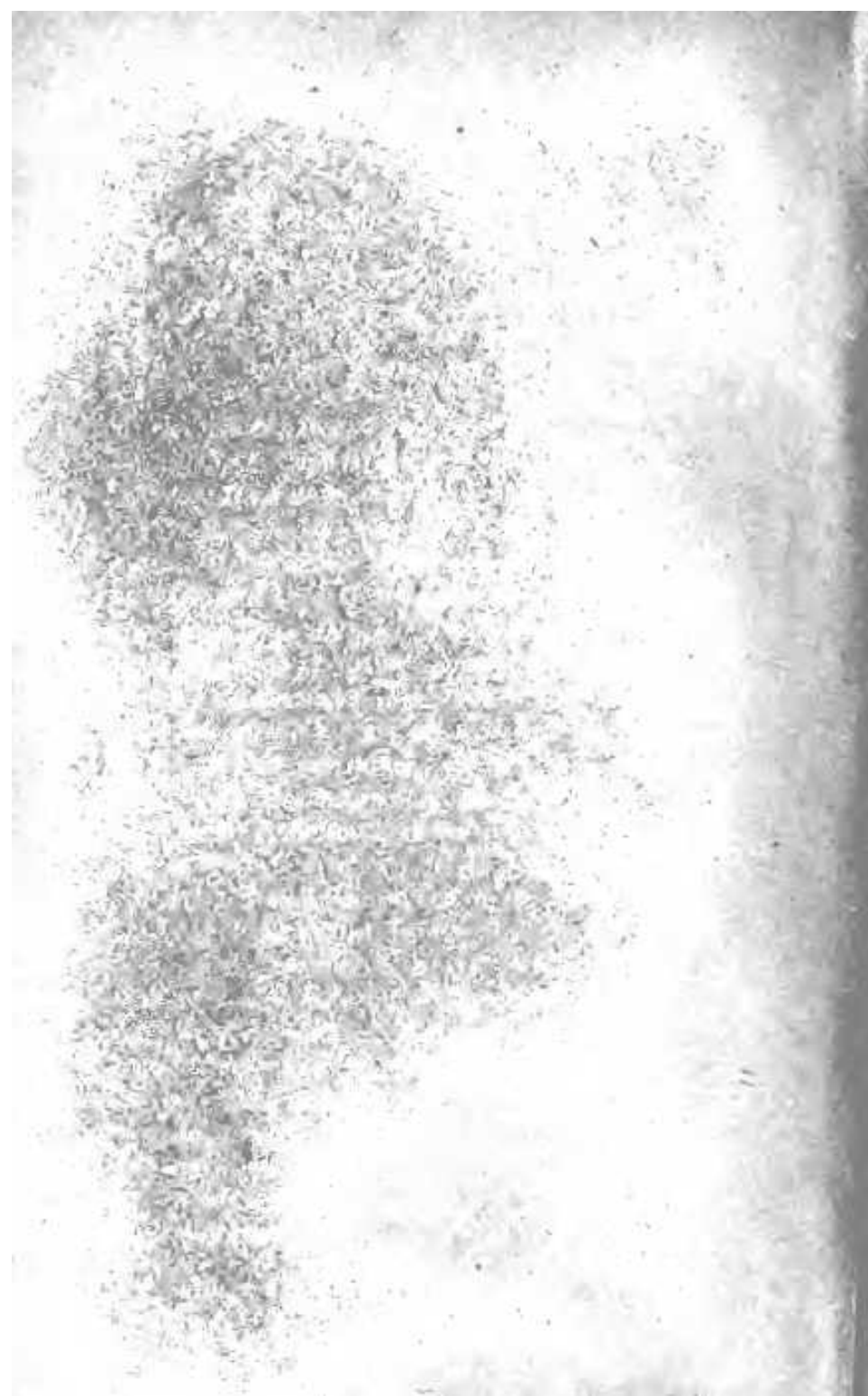
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TALES OF A WAYSIDE INN

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE plan for a group of stories under the fiction of a company of story-tellers at an inn appears to have visited Mr. Longfellow after he had made some progress with the separate tales. The considerable collection under the title of *The Saga of King Olaf* was indeed written at first with the design of independent publication. "The thought struck me this morning," writes the poet, February 25, 1859, "that a very good poem might be written on the Saga of King Olaf, who converted the North to Christianity. Read the old Saga in the *Heimskringla*, Laing's translation. *The Challenge of Thor* will serve as a prelude." This poem had been written about ten years before as prologue or *Introitus* to the second part of *Christus*.

Nearly two years passed before he took up the task in earnest; then, in November, 1860, "with all kinds of interruptions," he says, he wrote fifteen of the lyrics in as many days, and a few days afterward completed the whole of the *Saga*. Meanwhile he had written and published *Paul Revere's Ride* in *The Atlantic*, and before the publication of his volume he had printed in the same magazine one of the lyrics of the *Saga* and *The Legend of Rabbi Ben Levi*. Just when he determined upon