

**SEVENTEEN CANTOS
OF THE INFERNO OF
DANTE ALIGHIERI**

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Seventeen Cantos of the Inferno of Dante Alighieri by Dante Alighieri

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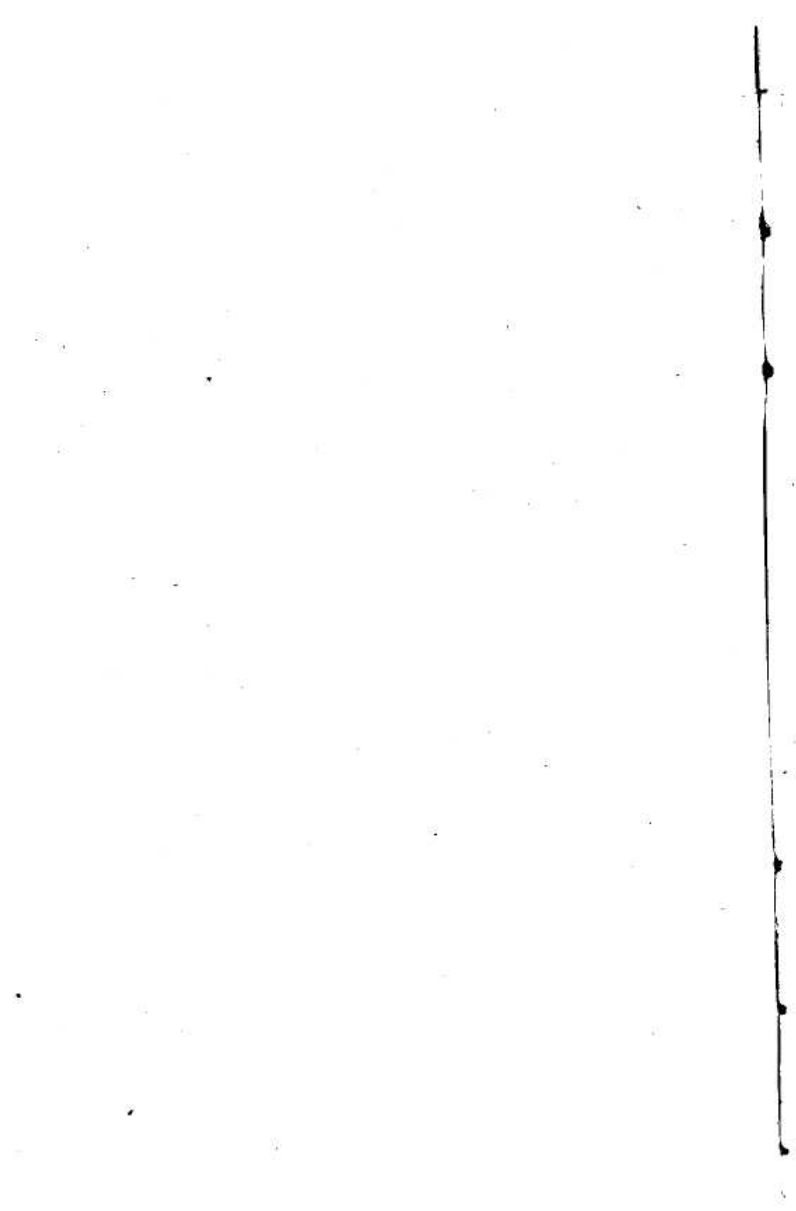
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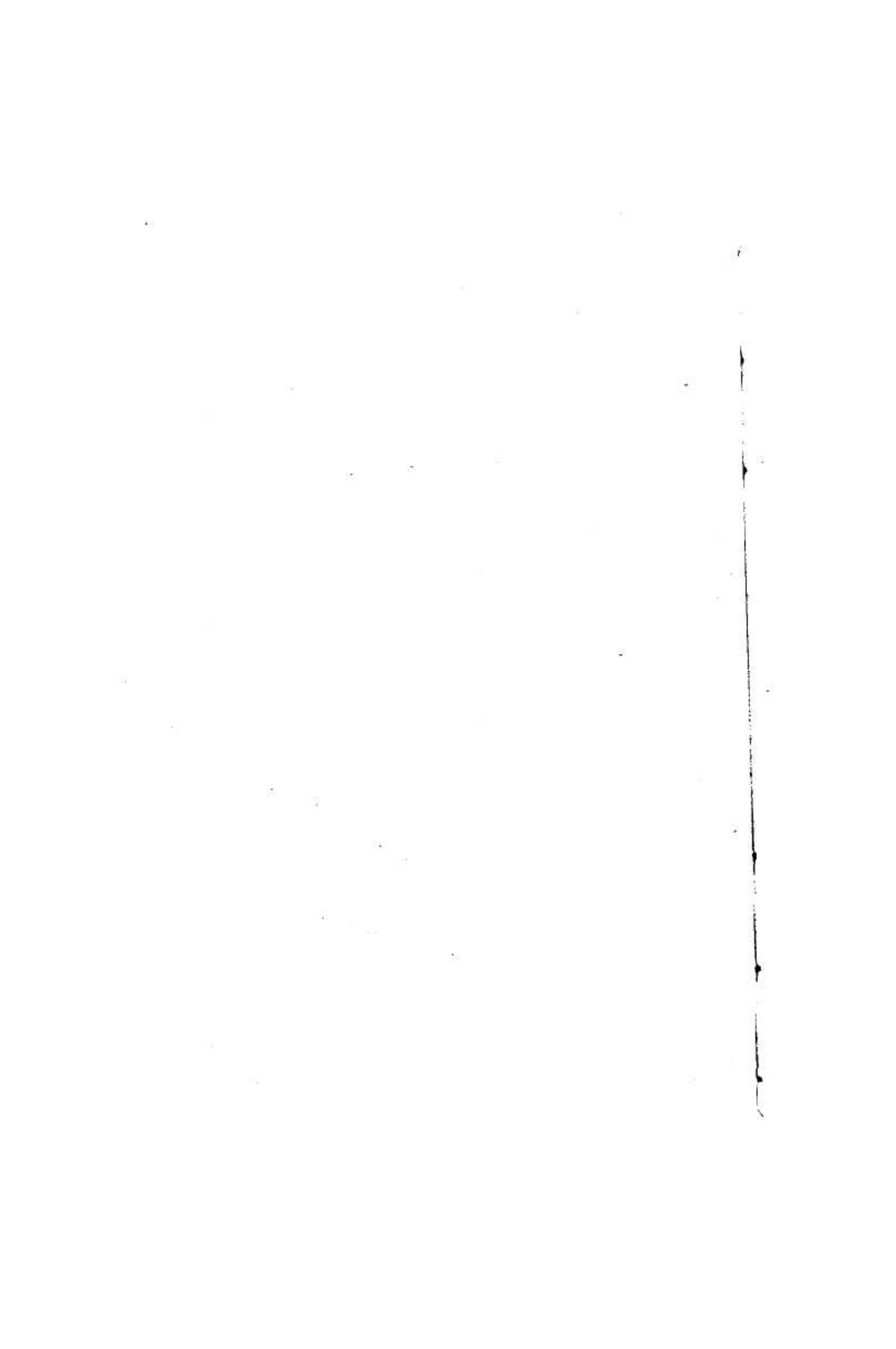
Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1865, by

THOMAS WILLIAM PARSONS,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.



TO
THE REMEMBRANCE
OF
My Father,
THOMAS WILLIAM PARSONS.



TO THE

Duke of Sermoneta,

DON MICHELANGELO CAETANI,

IN ROME.

SIR,

Your valued present, as well as your letters, have hitherto found me unable to forward to your acceptance even a single copy of these *First Cantos*, &c. It was twenty years from the time of their publication when you wrote to me, and they had long been out of print.

A recent request, of a more public nature, has induced me, at a late day, to issue a small reprint, as an humble tribute from New England to the coming celebration, in Florence, of the Six Hundredth Birth-day of DANTE. In 1836 my Father took me with him to Italy, — to Florence; and there, in the venerable Borgo Sant' Apostolo, consecrated, in my imagination, by a verse of Dante's, in the ancient House of the Acciaiuoli, and in the home of a learned lady who bore the name of the poet, I became enamoured of the "Divina Commedia."

My first studies were of the "Paradiso;" and I began to render portions of it into *terza rima*, a form foreign to our language; — even in Byron's hand —

"The stretched metre of an antique song;"