

**GREAT SPIRITUAL  
WRITERS  
OF AMERICA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649153374

Great spiritual writers of America by George Hamlin Fitch

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**GEORGE HAMLIN FITCH**

**GREAT SPIRITUAL  
WRITERS  
OF AMERICA**





*Jacques Reich, 1897*

WALT WHITMAN  
ETCHED BY JACQUES REICH FROM WHITMAN'S  
LAST PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY THOMAS  
EAKINS OF PHILADELPHIA

# GREAT SPIRITUAL WRITERS OF AMERICA

BY  
GEORGE HAMLIN FITCH

AUTHOR OF  
"COMFORT FOUND IN GOOD OLD BOOKS"  
"MODERN ENGLISH BOOKS OF POWER"  
"THE CRITIC IN THE OCCIDENT"  
"THE CRITIC IN THE ORIENT"

*Great men are they who see that spiritual  
is stronger than any material force; that thoughts  
rule the world.—Emerson: Progress of Culture.*



ILLUSTRATED

PAUL ELDER AND COMPANY  
PUBLISHERS · SAN FRANCISCO

Copyright, 1916  
by PAUL ELDER AND COMPANY  
SAN FRANCISCO

*For their assistance in the collection of the illustrative matter in this volume, and their courtesy in permitting its use, the Publishers gratefully acknowledge their indebtedness to the following: University of California Library; Doubleday, Page & Company; Harper & Brothers; Houghton Mifflin Company; Mitchell Kennerley; Little, Brown & Company; G. P. Putnam's Sons; Richard G. Badger, The Gorham Press*

DEDICATED  
TO ALL THOSE WHO  
HAVE FOUND INSPIRATION IN  
AMERICAN MEN OF  
LETTERS

335660





PS20  
 F5  
 1916  
 main

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	ix
SPIRIT OF AMERICAN LITERATURE . . . . .	xiii
The Vital Force found in the New Religion of Democracy — Emerson, Whitman and Mark Twain its Great Apostles.	
EMERSON, THE LITERARY PIONEER . . . . .	3
His Essays, Full of Splendid Optimism, Stimulated Whitman and many other American Writers.	
WALT WHITMAN, THE PROPHET IN HIS SHIRT-SLEEVES . . . . .	12
Most Original of all American Writers — He Defied Conventionality and Paid the Full Penalty.	
THE CHARM OF WASHINGTON IRVING . . . . .	21
Genial Author of <i>The Sketch Book</i> , the First American to Gain an International Reputation.	
ART OF EDGAR ALLAN POE . . . . .	28
Work of the Finest Short-Story Writer in America — His Poems and Tales Translated into Many Languages.	
HAWTHORNE'S SOMBER PURITAN ROMANCES . . . . .	37
<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> , <i>The House of the Seven Gables</i> and <i>Mosses From an Old Manse</i> — Art in <i>The Marble Faun</i> .	
FENIMORE COOPER'S ORIGINAL WORK . . . . .	48
His Tales of the Forest and the Sea — Leatherstocking and Long Tom Coffin Known Around the World.	
LONGFELLOW, THE POET OF THE HOUSEHOLD . . . . .	58
More Popular Abroad than any other American Writer of Verse — His Strong Sense of Nationality.	
LOWELL AS POET, ESSAYIST AND CRITIC . . . . .	68
His <i>Commemoration Ode</i> , <i>The Biglow Papers</i> and His Literary Essays His Best Work.	
WIT AND HUMOR OF OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES . . . . .	78
Wise and Tender Passages in <i>The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table</i> — Some of His Most Popular Poems.	

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
WHITTIER, THE PURITAN SINGER . . . . .	87
The Anti-Slavery Bard Whose <i>Snow Bound</i> , <i>The Tent on the Beach</i> and Other Poems are Full of Spiritual Fire.	
THOREAU, THE PIONEER WRITER ABOUT NATURE . . .	95
The Recluse of Walden Pond who First Showed the World How to Live the Simple Life and How to Enjoy Nature.	
FRANCIS PARKMAN'S HISTORICAL WORK . . . . .	103
Although Half-Blind and an Invalid, He Described the Long Struggle Between France and England for Canada.	
MARK TWAIN, OUR FINEST HUMORIST . . . . .	111
Sprung from Poverty, He Won Fame by <i>The Innocents Abroad</i> — His best book, <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> .	
BRET HARTE'S CALIFORNIA TALES AND POEMS . . . .	119
Pioneer Life Among Gold Miners Mirrored by a Master of the Short Story — One of the Great Artists in Verse.	
HOWELLS, FIRST OF LIVING AMERICAN NOVELISTS . .	127
A Genial Humorist who Has Painted Many Phases of Our Social Life — His Books of Travel.	
MARKHAM, POET OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE . . . .	136
Wallace Called Him "The Greatest Poet of the Social Passion" — Fame Came with <i>The Man With the Hoe</i> .	
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	147
Short Notes of Standard and Other Editions, with Lives, Sketches, Reminiscences and References to Magazine Articles.	
INDEX . . . . .	159