

**STANZAS AND
SKETCHES; PP. 1-123**

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Stanzas and Sketches; pp.1-123 by James J. O'Connell

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JAMES J. O'CONNELL

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SKETCHES; PP. 1-123**

STANZAS
AND
SKETCHES.

BY

JAMES J. O'CONNELL.

BROOKLYN :
JAMES J. O'CONNELL,
1883.

TO
JAMES ROSEVELT GLEASON,
WHO,
THOUGH HUMAN,
HAS EVER BEEN MY FRIEND,
THIS VOLUME
IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

il. 25c

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P R E F A C E .

IN publishing his first thin volume of *juvenalia*, it is customary for the young author to make this the vehicle for excuses, as though he had been guilty of some crime. In my case, I have no excuse to offer. This volume contains a selection of my contributions to the amateur press during the past two years, and comprises all I desire to preserve. In one respect, I am sure, this little book will be more fortunate than many others of greater pretensions; for, as it will circulate only among my personal friends and fellow-workers in the cause of amateur journalism, I can reasonably expect to carry my readers beyond the preface.

We are told that one can make himself understood much easier, and with fewer words, in conversation than in writing. I have often thought that the reader, however appreciative, can never understand a sentiment so fully as the writer. We have all heard of how the poet, while under the influence of the *divine afflatus*, has torn his hair and foamed at the mouth on being delivered of a happy thought.

But he is indeed fortunate if his words arouse more than a passing feeling in the heart of his reader. To me, these *con amore* articles mean a great deal; they mean more, perhaps, than I would wish the reader to know. Literature has been my recreation: I have pursued it with the spirit of Spenser's angels, "All for love, and nothing for reward." From necessity, and not inclination, I have been compelled to say with Henry Kirke White:

For me the day
Hath duties which require the vigorous hand
Of steadfast application, but which leave
No deep improving trace upon the mind.
But be the day another's; — let it pass!
The night's my own! They cannot steal my night!
When Evening lights her folding star on high,
I live and breathe; and in the sacred hours
Of quiet and repose my spirit flies,
Free as the morning, o'er the realms of space,
And mounts the skies, and imp's her wing for Heaven.

Brooklyn, January, 1883.

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