FROM MUSCATINE VERSES

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From Muscatine Verses by George Meason Whicher

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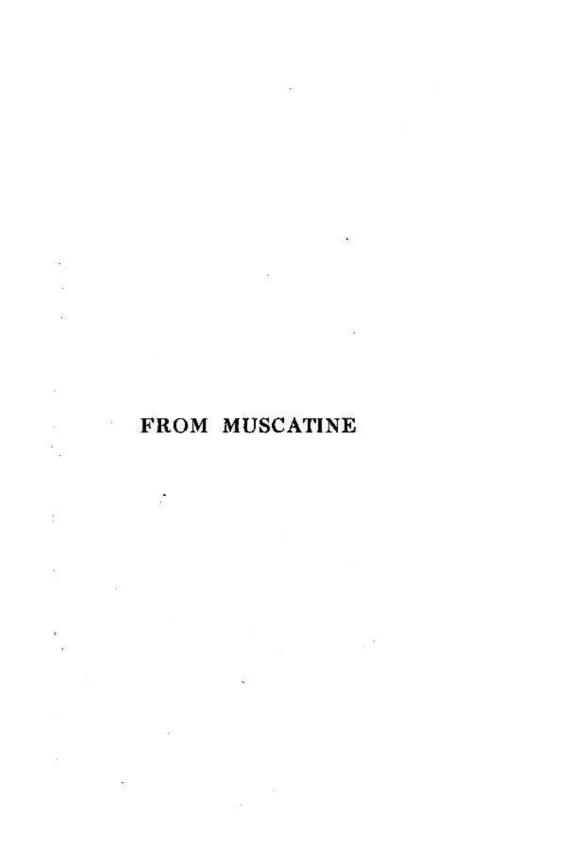
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GEORGE MEASON WHICHER

FROM MUSCATINE VERSES







"The river's all a sparkle, an' the Towkead is all green."
Page 11.

FROM MUSCATINE

VERSES

GEORGE MEASON WHICHER

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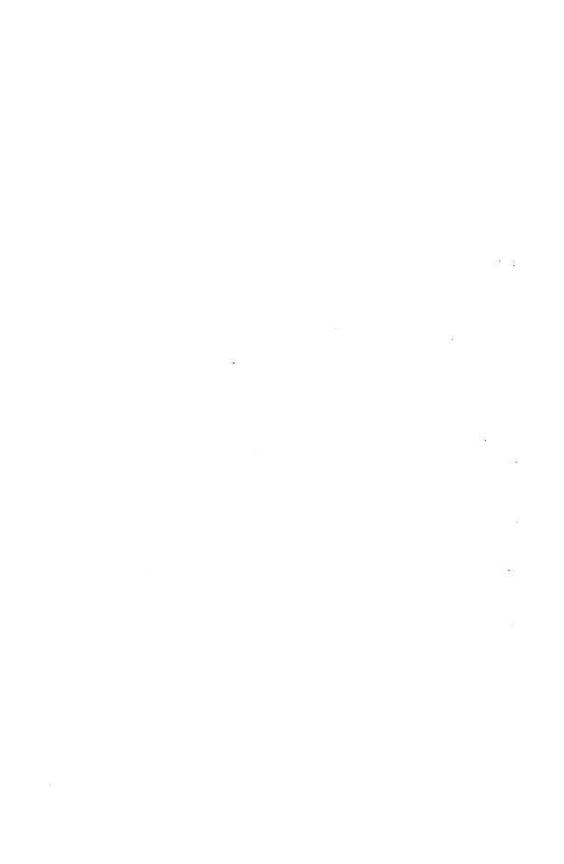
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CONTENTS.

PREFACE.	3 . 33	34	100		21	23	7
DEDICATION		÷		. 5	1000	÷3	9
THE RETURN		55		*	98	90	11
TWO MEMORIES					16	*0	13
JUNE .		34	9	35	(4)	200	15
NUMBER TWO	i.	8		3	18	-	17
IN OTHER YEARS					78	91	24
CHANGES	9	8		9	*1	¥6	25
SALLY .	Si I	6	1	36	100	30	27
AT LOWE'S RUN							30
CONTENTMENT		89	08	*	9.5	*0	35
THE BUILDER	X 80	Si.	*			¥0	36
A CHALLENGE	7.	152	1		- 2	28	37
TO FAME .	(* 0)) <u>*</u>		*	2.0	38
TO H. F. S.	d * 20	9			98	•68	39
THE PASTOR		8.	36	*	98	88	40
A PORTRAIT	-	72		2	5	20	42
EPISTLE TO GEORGE MOORE					**	\$0	43
TO ELLIS PARKER BUTLER					8	63	46
TO I. B. RICHM	AN	26	32	*	36	20	47
THE USUAL BR	AND	14		÷		1	49
PARTING SONG			200 0 7 0	(*)	**	93	54
DOWN THE SLO	UGH				*:	8 5	57
SEILER'S PAWN	ND	8	94	¥		2	59
IN EXILE				8	3	•	62
BY THE RIVER		8				90	64
A-CLURKUN' FOR HARBAUGH					*	•0	66
A WARNING	2.00	53	14	×	10	8	68
A MELON SONG	23					•	69
WHEN HARRY	ASKS	33	3.5		20	50	72



PREFACE

Reminiscences of one's youth, whether in verse or prose, are likely to possess at least a faint flavor of the elegy. Yet in re-reading these verses, the sporadic production of many years, I am somewhat surprised to see how perceptible that flavor has become. For the Muscatine of the early Seventies, as I remember it, was far from being elegiac. Life was set to many different tunes, but most of them were cheerful. This booklet, however, does not aim to be more than a fragmentary expression of one person's memories, printed with the hope of giving pleasure to those who share them or others like them.

I hasten to add that the "dialects" in which some of the pieces are written, do not pretend to be either phonetically exact or locally characteristic. They are conventional merely, and as far from real life as the characters who are supposed to use them.

The one companion of my boyhood who would have been most interested in these lines, has long since passed beyond the reach of any words that might be written here. As a slight memorial of our long companionship, I have included in this book some verses written by him, and all the more appropriate since they are addressed to another friend from Muscatine.

G. M. W.

ALDERHITHE, MIDDLE HADDAM, CONNECTICUT. June 1912.