

**A CHAPLET OF VERSE
BY CALIFORNIA
CATHOLIC WRITERS**

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A Chaplet of Verse by California Catholic Writers by D. O. Crowley & Charles Anthony Doyle

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D. O. CROWLEY & CHARLES ANTHONY DOYLE

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Edited by

Rev. D. O. Crowley and Charles Anthony Doyle.

PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE YOUTHS' DIRECTORY.



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L'ENVOI.

GO, little book, out on the world,
Like a frail bark upon the sea ;
In storms may all thy sails be furled,
Full spread when south winds follow thee.
May friendly critics, near and far,
Guide thee through seas all tempest hurled ;
With hope for thy true northern star,
Go, little book, out on the world !

AGNES M. MANNING



Introduction.

FOR many of the writers whose productions grace the pages of this volume an *introduction* is scarcely necessary.

There are some, however, less known to the literary world and, if I may judge from their poems, published herein, they are destined to become favorites in the near future.

It is gratifying, indeed, to be able to include in this collection two of the poets whose writings Mr. Bret Harte has selected for his "Outcroppings"—the first book of California Verse. I allude to the pious and gifted lady who contributes the initial poems, and also to Mr. Charles Warren Stoddard, whose fame has transcended even the limits of our vast Republic. Misses Harriet M. Skidmore, Agnes M. Manning, Marcella A. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Anna Morrison Reed; R. E. White and the bard with the illustrious name of Daniel O'Connell have already attained to prominent and permanent positions in the Temple of the Muses, and their poems will undoubtedly be read with profit and appreciation.

Nearly all the other writers who appear in these pages have been but recently awakened to a consciousness of power, and their poems are merely the surface croppings of undeveloped genius; a garland of occidental blooms whose fruitage I trust, is destined at no far distant day, to mature and ripen in the sunshine of public favor.

The duties of my sacred calling, and the obligations of my present position have prevented me from devoting the time and attention necessary to the preparation of this little

book. Fortunately in the hour of need Mr. Charles Anthony Doyle came to my relief. This talented and industrious young writer has collected and collocated the poems.

Ex-Governor Burnett, the venerable octogenarian and distinguished author, at the request of kind friends has consented to write the Preface. His long and illustrious career has been remarkable alike for great ability and integrity, and his name inscribed in this little volume is a guarantee of its success.

In dedicating "*A Chaplet of Verse*" to the Solicitors and Members of St. Joseph's Union, I wish to acknowledge the service rendered by these *devoted workers* to the particular charity in whose interest this volume of verse appears. They will value this recognition, I hope, not as a feeble expression of *my* gratitude, but as a tribute which genius pays to their benevolence and devotion.

I desire to avail myself of the opportunity to thank Messrs. Diepenbrock & Co., who have undertaken the publication of this book entirely at their own risk, and for the sole benefit of this institution.

It is one of the great advantages of a work such as the present, to preserve many fugitive poems of merit that might be lost and forgotten, if left to the files of those newspapers and magazines in which they have appeared from time to time. In book form they will find not only a place on our shelves but also, I hope, a home in our hearts, where they are calculated to produce the salutary effect of prompting us to practice the virtues which they so fittingly extol, while they teach us to love more ardently still the semi-tropical beauty of our Western clime.

D. O. CROWLEY,

Youth's Directory, San Francisco

Fest of the Patronage of St. Joseph, 1889.

PREFACE.



THE discovery of gold in California in the month of January, 1848, while the country was in the military possession of the United States, led to a state of things—social, financial and literary—never before witnessed in the world; and which it is safe to predict will never occur again. There being no prohibitory legislation, the mines were thrown open to all the world upon equal terms. This privilege, the richness of the mines themselves, and the ease and quick success with which they were at first worked, caused the sudden assemblage of great numbers of *young men* from every part of the civilized world. With very rare exceptions, they came simply as eager seekers of gold, with no intention of remaining permanently in the country, but only first to accumulate, then to return and enjoy. As they came to acquire, not to invest capital in California, they had about an *equal* start, as every sane and healthy adult could readily find employment at a remunerative compensation. In those early days the whole community substantially lived under the theory of an equal and ample division of property.

One of the marked incidents accompanying the early golden days of California, was the almost entire suspension of the literary ability, and especially of the poetic talent of our people. A glance over the files of the papers published in California previous to 1856, will show, I think, how few and brief were the local poetic productions of the time. While I was in the mines in the months of November and December, 1848, "I became acquainted with John C. McPherson, a young genial spirit from old Scotland. He