HARP OF THE WEST; A POEM, IN FIVE PARS

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Harp of the West; a poem, in five pars by Hiram A. Reid

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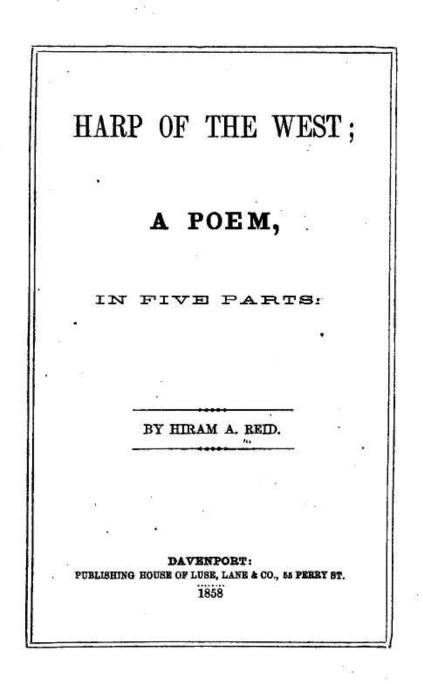
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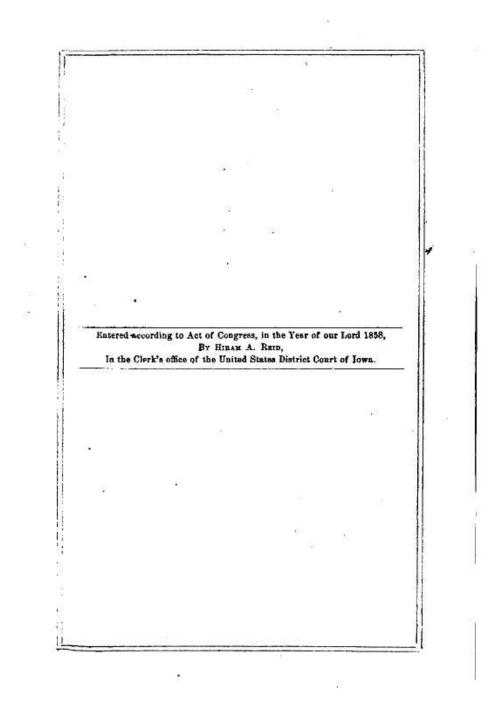
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HIRAM A. REID

HARP OF THE WEST; A POEM, IN FIVE PARS

Trieste





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DEDICATION.

REV. M. M. TOOKE,

President of " Mount Ida Remale College," Davesport, Iowa.

RESPECTED SIE: I recognize in the Institution over which yourself and lady jointly preside, a representative foreshadowing of that intellectual development and elevation of Woman, which is the hope of our country, and, through us, of the world.

In compliment, then, to the eminently practical character of female scholarship under your Presidency, and as evincing the hearty interest which I feel in the success of all such Institutions, allow me, sir, respectfully to insoribe this Foem

TO THE GENIUS OF MOUNT 1DA.

Yours, truly,

5-17-45 - 2 Rade

H. A. REID.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

My published volumes of verse hitherto are four in number, as follows:

THE BIRDS' NEST, and Other Poems. (Miniature.) New-Lieben, Ohio: 1853. pp. 84.

WILD-FIRE, a few Eccentric Poems. (Miniature.) Cleveland, Ohio: 1854. pp. 38. Lorros, or America's HERE; A Poem, in Five Parts. (Svo. super-royal.)---

Boston: 1854. pp. 24. THE HEART-LACE, and Other Poems. (Ministure.) Davenport, Iowa: 1856.

pp. 96.

The above were each special individualisms, printed by myself, for my own reasons, and asking no man's counsel or favor therein.

This volume; the "HARP OF THE WEST," is my first that aspires to the dignity of a literary effort. Furthermore, it must speak for itself. H. A. R.

Davenport, Iowa, May 20, 1858.

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HARP OF THE WEST.

He that hath new knowledge and fresh thoughts, owes them to the world. He that hath none, owes it to the world that he do not oppose the new.

PART I.

THE WESTERN MAN.

Most fit a Western Muse should lead the van In song expressive of the Western Man; And thus, O land of thrifty Pioneers, A native harp from out your rugged years Attunes its raptures for a theme unsung— To vindicate our ways, while yet our land is young.

In action hold as forcible in thought, We spurn the spoils of battles others fought; We honor toil, or shaping thoughts or stones,— Condemning rogues—yet more despising drones.

With all our heat in spurr'd pursuit of gain, Our childhood's gentlest lessons still remain;— Indeed, there be who pay their votive nods To day-book bibles, and commercial gods— The land hath yet ne'er opened to the sun Where such, and worse idolaters, were none; But such had been so, whether East or West— The Western Man with larger mind is blest:

10	HARP OF THE WEST.
His boast t	that is, and boast that is to be,
	than Eastern rule of thought more free.
	are not so hardened as they seem;
They flow	with goodness, like our own proud stream-
First, self	necessity to serve, and then
The softer	graces of fraternal men;
Though ur	gent thrift hath airy dreams forbade,
Our wheel	s of thought not burdened all with trade;
	s, half Philosophers, and more
Than half	Executors of all our lore:
Whence, th	his the humble virtue that we reach-
Our pride	to practice what our praise to preach.
Présumptu	ous pride in our own parent East
	n kindred but of man the beast:
'Tis false!	the West's o'erteeming tilth of mind
	aves the worn-out East behind:
	er men of learning most profound-
	d letters all brain-volumed, bound;
	er men devotional, and brave
	out sin, its victim souls to save;
	er Artists, in each various line,
	e laurels of the classic Nine;
140.00 (1-00-0)-00-0 (00-0)	er minds that star out from their slough,
	of genius in the native rough:
	rs agone-chance half a score, or less-
	ern Man swelled in his linsey dress
	is boast, nor feel much need of more
	on, born to plan ! our Fremont, to explore.
Action is	our life, and pale ruin's brink
	nt moment we should cease to think;
	d keen our appetite for stir,
	an rust, we acting choose to err,
	for thought in Oak Dale's meanest grave,

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