

**THE VOICE OF ST.  
JOHN, AND  
OTHER POEMS.**

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The Voice of St. John, And Other Poems. by Wm. Wilberforce Newton

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**WM. WILBERFORCE NEWTON**

**THE VOICE OF ST.  
JOHN, AND  
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The Voice of  
St. John,  
AND  
Other Poems.

BY  
WM. WILBERFORCE NEWTON,  
*Author of "Essays of To-day."*

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SCENE :—St. John at Ephesus, on the last Easter-day of his life, gathers the members of the church together, by the riverside, and tells his converts once more, the story of the first Easter-day.

"Little children . . . it is the last time."

1 JOHN ii. 18.

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## PREFACE.

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“ **I**N the convent of Drontheim,  
Alone in her chamber  
Kneelt Astrid the Abbess,  
At midnight, adoring,  
Beseeching, entreating  
The Virgin and Mother.

“ She heard in the silence  
The voice of one speaking  
Without in the darkness,  
In gusts of the night-wind,  
Now louder, now nearer,  
Now lost in the distance.

“ The voice of a stranger  
It seemed as she listened,  
Of some one who answered,  
Beseeching, imploring,  
A cry from afar off  
She could not distinguish.

*PREFACE.*

“ The voice of Saint John,  
The beloved disciple,  
Who wandered and waited  
The Master's appearance,  
Alone in the darkness,  
Unsheltered and friendless.”

H. W. LONGFELLOW.

## THE VOICE OF ST. JOHN.

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### I.

**G**ATHER round me, little children, for my  
days are ebbing fast,  
And your aged friend and father goeth to his  
home at last.

Soon the oldest of Apostles, white-haired, worn,  
and craving rest,  
Called by God, must join his brethren, saints and  
martyrs, saved and blest.

Here, beside the swift Meander, where our holy  
church has stood,  
Saints of Ephesus, I bid you hold the faith and  
seek the good.

On this happy Easter morning, you have sung  
your hymns of praise,  
And my soul is filled with memories of those far-  
off, wondrous days,