

**YOUNG
AMERICA: A POEM**

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Young America: A Poem by Fitz-Greene Halleck

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FITZ-GREENE HALLECK

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YOUNG AMERICA:

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BY

FITZ-GREENE HALLECK.

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76



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YOUNG AMERICA.



I.

It is a boy whom fourteen years have seen,
Smiling, with them, on Spring's returning
green,

A bonny boy, with eye-delighting eyes,
Sparkling as stars, and blue as summer's skies,

W O R 19 F E B 33

N Y P I

With face, like April's bright in smiles or
tears,
His laugh a song—his step the forest deer's,
With heart as pure and liberal as the air,
And voice of sweetest tone, and bright gold hair
In thick curls clustering round his even brow,
And dimpled cheek—how calm he slumbers
now!

The sentry stars in heaven's blue above,
Sleep their sweet daybreak sleep, their watch
withdrawn,
And lovely as a bride from dream of love,
Blushing and blooming, wakes the summer
dawn ;
Winds—woods—and waters of the brook and
bay

J. G. V. N.

Wake at the fanning of the wings of day,
And birds and bells, in garden, tree, and tower,
Bow to the bidding of the wakening hour,
And breathe, the Hamlet's happy homes
 among
Morn's fragrant music from their lips of Song.

Within the loveliest of wayside bowers,
The summer home of loveliest leaves and
 flowers,
Cradled on rose-leaves, curtained round with
 vines,
And canopied by branches of a tree
Whose buds and blossoms charm the wander-
 ing bee,
In deep and dreaming sleep the youth re-
 clines.

Sunbeams, wind-cooled, their fond caressing
glow,
Twine, with leaf-shadows, the green roof be-
low,
In wedded love-clasp of sweet shade and light,
The enwoven harmony of the dark and bright,
And blend within, around it, and above,
Their balm, their bloom, their beauty, and
their joy,
Their watching—sleepless as the brooding
dove,
Their bounty—boundless as the fairy love
Of Queen Titania for her Henchman Boy.
