

**MEMOIRS OF MARGARET
JANE BLAKE OF BALTIMORE,
MD.: AND SELECTIONS IN
PROSE AND VERSE**

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Memoirs of Margaret Jane Blake of Baltimore, Md.: And Selections in Prose and Verse by
Sarah R. Levering

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SARAH R. LEVERING

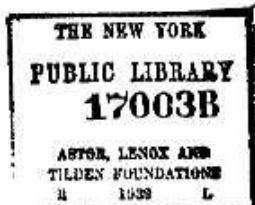
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OF
Margaret Jane Blake
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AND
Selections in Prose and Verse
BY
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1852
1853



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FRANK F. INKER & SON
200 SOUTH 10TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA

To my Mother
of blessed memory
is this little volume inscribed.

WQ R 10 FEB '26

PREFACE

THE negro enslaved of yore is now a free man, and as a citizen of an enlightened nation is fully entitled to an education to enable him to enjoy the blessings of freedom.

The Presbytery of Baltimore hold in possession the deed for a pretty little farm located in Harford county, Maryland, on the Little Gunpowder River. It is hilly ground, far above the river, the foot of the hills only washed by the stream. It is impossible for the water to rise high enough to damage crops or buildings on the land. The land is good, with abundant sweet, cold spring water to be had in all seasons; the spring has never been known to fail. One farmer occupied the premises twelve years and had a large family of children who were the healthiest of the healthy in all the region around. The proceeds from the sale of this booklet will be appropriated to the improvement of "Dingley Dell," the farm upon which the Presbytery of Baltimore proposes to establish a manual labor school for the benefit of the

Afro-American citizens, as they prefer being called. Said school is to be established as soon as there are funds enough to erect suitable buildings. A large sum of money will be required to establish this enterprise, and the sooner the money is collected the sooner it will be an accomplished fact. Now, if every Afro-American will pay the price of this little book a good sum will be realized, and perhaps some other friend or friends of education may be moved to write another book for the same cause and help along the much-desired object. The Presbytery will be encouraged to move forward, to the joy of all who feel any interest in this matter.

Some may wish to know why the selection of pieces was added to the memoir of Margaret Jane Blake. All of them were written by persons with whom she was acquainted and some were composed on persons in whom she felt great interest. The "Unwelcome Guest" is a partial description of a beautiful house in which she served as a housemaid. A careful examination of the lines called "The Bride" will show the maiden name of the lady in whose service she died.

THE AUTHORESS.

MARGARET JANE BLAKE.

A MEMOIR.

BY SARAH R. LEVERING.

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."—*Proverbs.*

THE subject of this memoir, though born a slave, was of illustrious parentage, inasmuch as her father and mother were virtuous and patriotic, this combination having always been esteemed the foundation of noble character. Her father, Perry Blake, was a marine in the United States navy, and Commodore Porter himself informed my father that Perry Blake fought bravely under his command. He was a powerfully built man, and no doubt he rendered willing and efficient service to his country in the War of 1812-15 against Great Britain. Perry Blake was married to Charlotte, a slave belonging to my father. Charlotte was as patriotic as her free husband, and took long walks to bear provisions to the young men of her master's household who were under arms during the attack of the British on the city of Baltimore. Her unremitting and cheerful service during this anx-