

**RHYMES OF
TRAVEL: BALLADS
AND POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649693481

Rhymes of Travel: Ballads and Poems by Bayard Taylor

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BAYARD TAYLOR

**RHYMES OF
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AND POEMS**



Yours ever,
V. Bayard Taylor

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RHYMES OF TRAVEL,

NO. 11

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BALLADS AND POEMS.

3631

BY

BAYARD TAYLOR,

AUTHOR OF "VIEWS A-FOOT," ETC.

SECOND EDITION.

NEW-YORK:

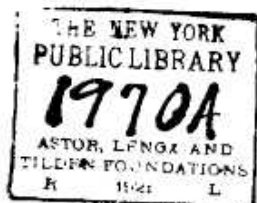
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LONDON: PUTNAM'S AMERICAN AGENCY,

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1849



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GEORGE P. PUTNAM.
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LEAVITT, TROW & Co.,
Printers and Stereotypers,
49 Ann-street, N. Y.

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THE AUTHOR TO THE READER.

THIS volume—the first poetical venture to which I have entrusted a hope of success, for the sake of Poetry alone—seems to require a few words of introduction.

In collecting the effusions of four or five years for publication in a form which has the semblance of permanence, however much it may lack the necessary vital spirit, I have been aware of the great inequality of merit among the poems chosen. The Rhymes of Travel, which give expression to thoughts and emotions inspired by my journey in Europe, are the earliest I have thought proper to include. They are faithful records of my feelings at the time, often noted down hastily by the wayside, and aspiring to no higher place than the memory of some pilgrim who may, under like circumstances, look upon the same scenes. An ivy leaf from the tower where a hero of old history may have dwelt, or the simplest weed, growing over the dust that once held a great soul, is reverently kept

for the memories it inherited through the chance fortune of the wind-sown seed ; and I would fain hope that these rhymes may bear with them a like simple claim to reception, from those who have given me their company through the story of my wanderings.

In the Californian Ballads I have attempted to give a poetical expression to the rude but heroic physical life of the vast desert and mountain region, stretching from the Cordilleras of New Mexico to the Pacific. This country, in the sublime desolation of its sandy plains and stony mountains, streaked here and there with valleys of almost tropical verdure, and the peculiar character of its semi-civilized people, seemed to afford a field, in which the vigorous spirit of the old ballad might be transplanted, to revive and flourish with a new and sturdy growth. The favor with which some of these ballads have been noticed, on their anonymous publication in the *Literary World*, encourages me to hope that I have been partly successful. I am conscious, at least, that they were written with no deliberate purpose to seek a new field for poetic effort, but from that impulse which made their expression a necessity and a joy.

For the imperfections in this volume I offer no apology. That it contains some poems whose selection was not dic-