

**THE RIVERSIDE LITERATURE
SERIES.
GRANDMOTHER'S STORY:
AND OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649428502

The Riverside Literature Series. Grandmother's Story: And Other Poems by Oliver Wendell Holmes

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

**THE RIVERSIDE LITERATURE
SERIES.
GRANDMOTHER'S STORY:
AND OTHER POEMS**

The Riverside Literature Series

GRANDMOTHER'S STORY

AND OTHER POEMS

BY
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

WITH NOTES AND A
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

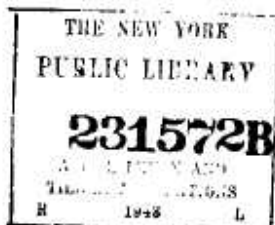


BOSTON NEW YORK CHICAGO
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
The Riverside Press Cambridge

c 1905

1131
Holmes

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY are the only authorized publishers of the works of LONGFELLOW, WHITTIER, LOWELL, HOLMES, EMERSON, THOREAU, and HAWTHORNE. All editions which lack the imprint or authorization of Houghton Mifflin Company are issued without the consent and contrary to the wishes of the authors or their heirs.



COPYRIGHT, 1874 AND 1875, BY JAMES R. OSGOOD & CO.
COPYRIGHT, 1877, BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES
COPYRIGHT, 1891 AND 1903, BY HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO.
COPYRIGHT, 1903 AND 1905, BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

CONTENTS

	PAGE
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH	5
GRANDMOTHER'S STORY	8
HOW THE OLD HORSE WON THE BET	20
AN APPEAL FOR "THE OLD SOUTH"	27
* A BALLAD OF THE BOSTON TEA-PARTY	29
THE BALLAD OF THE OYSTERMAN	33
REFLECTIONS OF A PROUD PEDESTRIAN	35
EVENING: BY A TAILOR	36
THE PLOUGHMAN	38
† THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA	40
* DOROTHY Q: A FAMILY PORTRAIT	42
BILL AND JOE	45
THE LAST LEAF	47
{ BROTHER JONATHAN'S LAMENT FOR SISTER CAROLINE	49
FOR THE SERVICES IN MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN	51
ODE FOR WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	52
LEXINGTON	54
OLD IRONSIDES	56
ROBINSON OF LEYDEN	58
THE PILGRIM'S VISION	60
THE LIVING TEMPLE	65
THE CHAMBERED NAUTILUS	67
CONTENTMENT	69
THE TWO ARMS	72
SPRING	73
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF HARVARD COLLEGE, 1836	76
THE STEAMBOAT	78
† THE DRAGON'S MASTERPIECE	80
THE BROOMSTICK TRAIN	84
UNDER THE WASHINGTON ELM, CAMBRIDGE	90

41 X 1281

FREEDOM, OUR QUEEN	91
THE FLOWER OF LIBERTY	92
UNION AND LIBERTY	93
GOD SAVE THE FLAG!	95
A SUN-DAY HYMN	96

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES was born at Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 29, 1809. The house in which he was born stood between the sites now occupied by the Hemenway Gymnasium and the Law School of Harvard University, and was of historic interest as having been the headquarters of General Artemas Ward, and of the Committee of Safety in the days just before the Revolution. Upon the steps of the house stood President Langdon, of Harvard College, tradition says, and prayed for the men who, halting here a few moments, marched forward under Colonel Prescott's lead to throw up intrenchments on Bunker Hill on the night of June 16, 1775. Dr. Holmes's father carried forward the traditions of the old house, for he was Rev. Dr. Abiel Holmes, whose *American Annals* was the first careful record of American history written after the Revolution.

Born and bred in the midst of historic associations, Holmes had from the first a lively interest in American history and politics, and though possessed of strong humorous gifts often turned his song into patriotic channels, while the current of his literary life was distinctly American.

He began to write poetry when in college at Cambridge, and some of his best-known early pieces, like *Evening, by a Tailor*, *The Meeting of the Dryads*, *The Spectre Pig*, were contributed to the *Collegian*, an undergraduate journal, while he was studying law the year after his graduation. At the

same time he wrote the well-known poem *Old Ironsides*, a protest against the proposed breaking up of the frigate *Constitution*; the poem was printed in the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, and its indignation and fervor carried it through the country, and raised such a popular feeling that the ship was saved from an ignominious destruction. Holmes shortly gave up the study of law, went abroad to study medicine, and returned to take his degree at Harvard in 1836. At the same time he delivered a poem, *Poetry: a Metrical Essay*, before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard, and ever afterward his profession of medicine and his love of literature received his united care and thought. In 1838 he was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at Dartmouth College, but remained there only a year or two, when he returned to Boston, married, and practised medicine. In 1847 he was made Parkman Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Medical School of Harvard College, a position which he retained until the close of 1882, when he retired, to devote himself more exclusively to literature.

In 1857, when the *Atlantic Monthly* was established, Professor Lowell, who was asked to be editor, consented on condition that Dr. Holmes should be a regular contributor. Dr. Holmes at that time was known as the author of a number of poems of grace, life, and wit, and he had published several professional papers and books, but his brilliancy as a talker gave him a strong local reputation, and Lowell shrewdly guessed that he would bring to the new magazine a singularly fresh and unusual power. He was right, for *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table*, beginning in the first number, unquestionably insured the *Atlantic* its early success. The readers of the day had forgotten that Holmes, twenty-five years before, had begun a series with the same title in Buckingham's *New England Magazine*, a periodical of short life, so they did not at first understand why he should begin his first article, "I was just going to say when

I was interrupted." From that time Dr. Holmes was a frequent contributor to the magazine, and in it appeared successively, *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table*, *The Professor at the Breakfast-Table*, *The Professor's Story* (afterward called *Elsie Venner*), *The Guardian Angel*, *The Poet at the Breakfast-Table*, *The New Portfolio* (afterward called *A Mortal Antipathy*), *Our Hundred Days in Europe*, and *Over the Teacups*,—prose papers and stories with occasional insertion of verse; here also were first printed the many poems which he wrote so freely and so happily for festivals and public occasions, including the frequent poems at the yearly meetings of his college class. The wit and humor which have made his poetry so well known would never have given him his high rank had they not been associated with an admirable art which makes every word necessary and felicitous, and a generous nature which is quick to seize upon what touches a common life.

Dr. Holmes died at his home in Boston October 7, 1894. His life has been written by his wife's nephew, John T. Morse, Jr., and is published under the title *Life and Letters of Oliver Wendell Holmes*.