

**THE POEMS AND PROSE
SKETCHES OF JAMES
WHITCOMB RILEY, NEIGHBORLY
POEMS AND DIALECT SKETCHES**

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The poems and prose sketches of James Whitcomb Riley, Neighborly poems and dialect sketches
by James Whitcomb Riley

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JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

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NEIGHBORLY POEMS
AND DIALECT
SKETCHES

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S
SONS NEW YORK 1915

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO THE HOMESTEAD EDITION

IN arranging for the author's complete writings in this, The Homestead Edition, it has been found necessary to make some deviations from the order of the contents of his volumes as they first consecutively appeared and, in the same editions, are continued by their original publishers, severally,—The Bowen-Merrill Co., Indianapolis; The Century Co., New York; and Longmans, Green & Co., London. The titles of the two volumes, "An Old Sweetheart of Mine" (The Bowen-Merrill Co., Indianapolis) and "Old-Fashioned Roses" (Longmans, Green & Co., London), do not here reappear, but their contents are duly brought over and preserved in full in this edition. To the generous courtesy of both American and English publishers the author is additionally indebted, and so permitted to reshape, in rounded form, his verse and prose product entire—the base of all changes made

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

being simply in the interest of symmetry and the avoidance of repetitions peculiar to the novice's first brood of books.

No further word seems due or pertinent, at this new beginning and first volume, unless it be to emphasize the strictly conscientious intent of the real writer to be lost wholly in the personality of this book's supposed old Hoosier author, Benj. F. Johnson. Therefore the generous reader is fervently invoked to regard the verse-product herein not only as the work of the old man's mind, but as the patient labor of his unskilled hand and pen as well—and the whole of it thus reverently held unedited, save in simplest essential marks of punctuation,—these conditions only changing in his prose sketch, "An Old Settler's Story," which primitive chronicle is, for apparent reasons, retold as by a pleased listener to the originally impromptu narration.

J. W. R.

TO MY BROTHER
HUMBOLDT RILEY

