

POEMS

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Poems by John G. Saxe

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JOHN G. SAXE

POEMS



Yours truly
Wm. G. Saxe.

POEMS

BY

JOHN G. SAXE.

FIFTH EDITION, ENLARGED.

BOSTON:
TICKNOR, REED, AND FIELDS.

M DCCC LIV.

TO HON. GEORGE P. MARSH,
UNITED STATES MINISTER RESIDENT AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

DEAR SIR,

I dedicate this little Volume to you, not in your capacity as the honored Representative of your country at a Foreign Court, nor yet in your higher character, as one of the foremost scholars of the age; but, rather, as it more befitting, in token of my esteem for your private virtues, and in grateful acknowledgment of your personal friendship. I hesitate less to avail myself of your kind permission to use your name in this place, since it was greatly owing to your *dictating* judgment of my first elaborate essay of verse-writing, that other pieces were subsequently undertaken, and that these are now here collected. In christening the book, I have chosen, for several reasons, to conform to the customary nomenclature which allows every kind of literature to be 'Poetry,' that is not written in the fashion of prose: yet I have no quarrel with that nice rule of modern criticism which assigns to all metrical compositions of a mainly facetious or satirical character, a place rather on the border than fairly within the domain of legitimate poetry. If I have excluded several trifles which some of my friends would like to have seen with the rest, it was because I could not afford to make the volume larger at any risk of making it worse. Should the verses which I have ventured to retain, receive, in their present form, the favor which has been accorded to most of the poems separately, I am very sure no one will be more gratified than yourself, — except it be

Your sincere Friend, and humble Servant,

JOHN GODFREY Saxe.

BURLINGTON, VERMONT, 1843.

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PROGRESS: A SATIRE.

P O E M S .

P R O G R E S S :

A S A T I R E .

In this, our happy and ' progressive ' age,
When all alike ambitious cares engage ;
When beardless boys to sudden sages grow,
And ' Miss ' her nurse abundant for a beau ;
When for their dogmas Non-Resistants fight,
When dunces lecture, and when dandies write ;
When, martial honors to the children thrown,
Each five-foot minor is a ' Major ' grown ;
When matrons, seized with oratoric pangs,
Give happy birth to masculine harangues,
And spinsters, trembling for the nation's fate,
Neglect their stockings to preserve the State ;