

**THE ROVERSIDE  
LITERATURE SERIES.  
SELLA, THANATOPSIS AND  
OTHER POEMS, P. 1-93**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649761630

The Roverside Literature Series. Sella, Thanatopsis and Other Poems, p. 1-93 by William Cullen Bryant

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

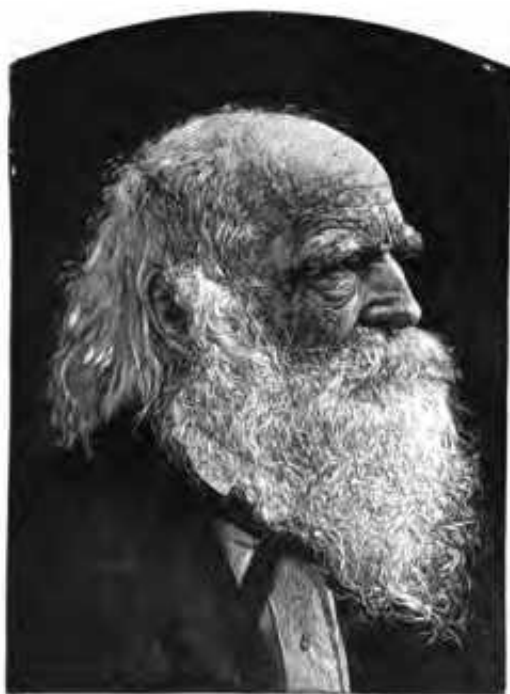
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this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

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT**

**THE ROVERSIDE  
LITERATURE SERIES.  
SELLA, THANATOPSIS AND  
OTHER POEMS, P. 1-93**





*William Cullen Bryant*



*The Riverside Literature Series*

---

SELLA, THANATOPSIS  
AND OTHER POEMS

BY

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT

WITH NOTES AND  
A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY  
Boston : 4 Park Street ; New York : 11 East Seventeenth Street  
Chicago : 378-388 Wabash Avenue  
*The Riverside Press, Cambridge*

Copyright, 1892,  
By HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO.

*All rights reserved.*

The Poems included in this number of the Riverside Literature Series are used by permission of Messrs. D. Appleton & Co., the authorized publishers of Bryant's Poems, and with the kind consent of Mr. Parke Godwin.

*The Riverside Press, Cambridge, Mass., U. S. A.*  
Electrotyped and Printed by H. O. Houghton & Company.

## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH . . . . .	5
SELLA . . . . .	9
THE LITTLE PEOPLE OF THE SNOW . . . . .	26
MARCH . . . . .	38
SONG OF MARION'S MEN . . . . .	39
THE GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS . . . . .	41
THE GREEK PARTISAN . . . . .	42
THE CONQUEROR'S GRAVE . . . . .	44
THE HUNTER OF THE PRAIRIES . . . . .	46
THE YELLOW VIOLET . . . . .	48
TO THE FRINGED GENTIAN . . . . .	49
THE DEATH OF TEN FLOWERS . . . . .	50
"INNOCENT CHILD AND SNOW-WHITE FLOWER" . . . . .	52
ROBERT OF LINCOLN . . . . .	53
TO A WATERFOWL . . . . .	55
THE WHITE-FOOTED DEER . . . . .	58
THE HUNTER'S SERENADE . . . . .	61
THE PLANTING OF THE APPLE-TREE . . . . .	63
A FOREST HYMN . . . . .	66
"O FAIREST OF THE RURAL MAIDS" . . . . .	70
A SUMMER RAMBLE . . . . .	71
THE LAND OF DREAMS . . . . .	73
"O MOTHER OF A MIGHTY RACE" . . . . .	75
OUR COUNTRY'S CALL . . . . .	76
THE RETURN OF THE BIRDS . . . . .	78
ABRAHAM LINCOLN . . . . .	81
THE SONG OF THE SOWER . . . . .	82
THE FLOOD OF YEARS . . . . .	88
THANATOPSIS . . . . .	93





CEDARMERE

*Bryant's Home at Roslyn*



## WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

---

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT was born at Cummington, Massachusetts, November 3, 1794; he died in New York, June 12, 1878. His first poem, *The Embargo*, was published in Boston in 1809, and was written when he was but thirteen years old; his last poem, *Our Fellow Worshippers*, was published in 1878. His long life thus was a long career as a writer, and his first published poem prefigured the twofold character of his literary life, for while it was in poetic form it was more distinctly a political article. He showed very early a taste for poetry, and was encouraged to read and write verse by his father, Dr. Peter Bryant, a country physician of strong character and cultivated tastes. He was sent to Williams College in the fall of 1810, where he remained two terms, when he decided to leave and enter Yale College; but pecuniary troubles interfered with his plans, and he never completed his college course. He pursued his literary studies at home, then began the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1815. Meantime he had been continuing to write, and during this period wrote with many corrections and changes the poem by which he is still perhaps best known, *Thanatopsis*. It was published in the *North American Review* for September, 1817, and the same periodical published a few months afterward his lines *To a Waterfowl*, one of the most characteristic and lovely of Bryant's poems. Literature divided his attention with law, but evidently had his heart. In 1821 he was

1. 26 3

invited to read a poem before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard College, and he read *The Ages*, a grave stately poem which shows his own poetic power, his familiarity with the great masters of literature, and his lofty, philosophic nature. Shortly after this he issued a small volume of poems, and his name began to be known as that of the first American who had written poetry that could take its place in universal literature. His own decided preference for literature, and the encouragement of friends, led to his abandonment of the law in 1825, and his removal to New York, where he undertook the associate editorship of *The New York Review and Athenæum Magazine*. Poetic genius is not caused or controlled by circumstance, but a purely literary life in a country not yet educated in literature was impossible to a man of no other means of support, and in a few months, after the *Review* had vainly tried to maintain life by a frequent change of name, Bryant accepted an appointment as assistant editor of the *Evening Post*. From 1826, then, until his death, Bryant was a journalist by profession. One effect of this change in his life was to eliminate from his poetry that political character which was displayed in his first published poem and had several times since shown itself. Thenceafter he threw into his journalistic occupation all those thoughts and experiences which made him by nature a patriot and political thinker; he reserved for poetry the calm reflection, love of nature, and purity of aspiration which made him a poet. His editorial writing was made strong and pure by his cultivated taste and lofty ideals, but he presented the rare combination of a poet who never sacrificed his love of high literature and his devotion to art, and of a publicist who retained a sound judgment and pursued the most practical ends.

His life outwardly was uneventful. He made four journeys to Europe, in 1834, 1845, 1852, 1857, and he made frequent tours in his own country. His observations on his travels were published in *Letters from a Traveller*, *Letters*