

**POEMS OF NATURE
AND SENTIMENT**

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Poems of Nature and Sentiment by Robert J. Wickenden

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ROBERT J. WICKENDEN

**POEMS OF NATURE
AND SENTIMENT**

1884

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Poems of Nature and Sentiment

By Robert F. Wickenden

Send forth thy ships upon the sea
And they shall come again to thee;
Though some fall prey to wind and rock,
Others the angry waves shall mock,
And laden, sail to thee.






R. J. W '94

Robt. J. Wickenden

With the author's compliments

POEMS OF
NATURE AND SENTIMENT

BY
ROBERT J. WICKENDEN

no.  146

FREDERICK KEPPEL & CO.
NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND PARIS
1894

TO MY MOTHER
THESE FIRST-FRUITS OF VERSE ARE
MOST AFFECTIONATELY
DEDICATED

PREFACE



IDEAS have come and sentiments have sometimes seized me, to express which the brush or crayon seemed inadequate. Instead of taking graphic form, these resolved themselves into words and rhyme, and I have noted them down at odd intervals for some years past.

The often repeated request of friends is my only excuse for now putting them into print.

If verse has occasionally amused me, painting has been my more constant occupation, and to arrive at poetry in both is my hope and aim.

R. J. W.

NEW YORK, October 15, 1894.

ENVOI

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POEMS OF
NATURE AND SENTIMENT



THE FIRST CAUSE

WE seek by strangely devious paths,
Through many a tangle try
To reach where Life's unfailing source
Beyond our ken may lie.

We see the flash of light that wrecks
Frail matter as it falls;
We hear the echoing thunder-peal
As cloud to cloud recalls.

But whence this strange imponderous force,
How its wild power grows,
Nor man, nor mortal, bard, nor seer,
In certainty yet knows.

The ancient world, with simple faith,
To Jove its power referred;
And after many centuries passed
We find they scarcely erred: