

**THE POETS OF THE WEST: A
SELECTION OF FAVOURITE
AMERICAN POEMS, WITH
MEMOIRS OF THEIR AUTHORS**

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The Poets of the West: A Selection of Favourite American Poems, with Memoirs of Their
Authors by Various

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THE
POETS OF THE WEST

A SELECTION OF FAVOURITE AMERICAN POEMS
WITH MEMOIRS OF THEIR AUTHORS.

ILLUSTRATED BY F. O. C. DARLEY, JASPER CROUSEY, J. H. HILL,
BIRKET FOSTER, ETC.



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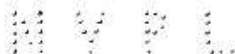
MEMOIRS OF THE AUTHORS.



JOSEPH HOPKINSON, LL.D. was born in Philadelphia, on November 12th, 1770, and was educated for the bar in his father's office. He rose to distinction in his profession, and from 1815 to 1818 was a member of the House of Representatives. In 1828 he was appointed Judge of the United States District Court of Philadelphia. This office he retained till his death, on the 15th of January, 1842. His well-known lyric, "Hail, Columbia!" has been adopted as one of the national songs of America, and has conferred a poetic immortality upon its author.

CLEMENT C. MOORE, LL.D. the son of a bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York, was born at New Town, Long Island, July 15th, 1779, and graduated B.A. at Columbia College in 1799. He early devoted his attention to biblical studies, and published a "Lexicon of the Hebrew Language." In 1844 he collected the poems he wrote during his earlier life, the longest of which is "A Trip to Saratoga"—a pleasant narrative of a family journey. His "Visit from St. Nicholas," taken from an old Dutch legend, is an especial favourite.

WASHINGTON ALLSTON, the descendant of a family of distinction in South Carolina, was born at Charleston, November 5th, 1779. He completed his education at Harvard College, and shortly afterwards sailed for England, where he became a student of the Royal Academy, under the presidency of Benjamin West. Here he remained three years; and then, after a sojourn at Paris, he went to Rome, where he resided for four years, and became the intimate associate of Coleridge. In 1809 he returned to America, and took up his abode at



Boston, where he married the sister of Dr. Channing. Two years after he again visited London; and, during the five years he remained here, produced some of his finest paintings. It was at this period that his wife died. In 1818 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy; and in the following year he returned to Boston, where, in 1830, he married the sister of his friend, Richard H. Dana. He then removed to Cambridgeport, where he continued to reside for the rest of his life. In 1839 he exhibited a gallery of his paintings—forty-five in number—at Boston, with great success. He died very suddenly on the night of the 8th of July, 1843. His principal poems were "The Sylph of the Seasons," published in 1813; "Monaldi," a story of great power; and "The Faint King." Besides these, he was the author of many minor pieces and sonnets.

RICHARD HENRY DANA, a descendant of an old English family, one of whom was sheriff of Middlesex in the reign of Elizabeth, was born at Cambridge, near Boston, on November 15th, 1787. His early years were passed at Newport, where he passed much of his time rambling along the rock-bound coast, and becoming familiar with ocean scenery. When he was old enough, he entered Harvard College; but his feeble health did not allow him to apply himself to constant study. At his first entry into the world, he devoted himself to the law, and became a member of the legislature; but his constitutional sensitiveness unfitted him for his profession, and he relinquished it for the more congenial walks of literature. For a few years he assisted in the management of the *North American Review*, and wrote several articles, which excited the attention of literary men. In 1825 he published his first poem, "The Dying Raven," in the *New York Review*; and, two years afterwards, gave to the world a small volume, "The Buccaneer and other Poems." In 1839 he delivered a course of lectures on the English poets, which were warmly applauded; and in 1850 published a complete edition of his works, including poems, prose tales, and criticisms, in two volumes. Mr. Dana now resides at Boston, and passes most of the summer months at his sea-side house at Cape Ann.

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE was born at New York on June 9th, 1792. His remarkable career as an actor and dramatist belongs to the history of the stage. At the age of twenty-one he sailed for England, where he resided for more than forty years. As a poet he will only be celebrated as the author of the well-known song, "Home, sweet Home;" of which upwards of 100,000 copies were sold in the year 1832. He died at Tunis,—where he was for some time consul for the United States,—in 1852.