

POEMS

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Poems by Thomas William Parsons

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THOMAS WILLIAM PARSONS

POEMS

By Thomas C. Parsons

POEMS. 16mo.

TRANSLATION OF DANTE'S DIVINA COMEDIA INTO ENGLISH VERSE. 16mo, \$1.50.

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BY

THOMAS WILLIAM PARSONS



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1893

PUBLISHERS' NOTE

DR. PARSONS was singularly indifferent to his repute as a poet. For poetry and for his own poetic expression he cared greatly; the permanence of his productions he left not indeed to chance but to the inherent vitality there might be in his verse, taking little pains to secure an audience, and none at all in his later years to making such collections and arranging his poems in such order as would insure the attention of a world distracted by the demand of writers great and small. In 1854 a volume of his poems was issued by Messrs. Ticknor and Fields, and in 1872 another general collection, "The Shadow of the Obelisk and Other Poems," by Messrs. Hatchards, in London. He contented himself otherwise with printing, not publishing, thin volumes of verse like "The Magnolia," and "The Old House at Sudbury," which now and then found their way into the bookstores, but more frequently were the cherished possession of his personal friends. He made use, too, of magazines and newspapers and

printed leaflets containing poems of special occasions or having some immediate interest for himself and his circle of friends.

It is from these varied sources that the present volume has been gathered. It does not aim at completeness. Dr. Parsons himself, though frequently urged by the present publishers to make a definitive edition of his poems, could never be induced to set about the task. Had he done so he would most certainly have swept aside a good many of his verses, for he was a most fastidious critic of his own work after his passion or his playful impulse had found expression. Therefore the principle herein adopted cannot be foreign from his own purpose; the volume is a somewhat representative selection, covering indeed the greater portion of his lyrical writing, but by no means complete. It will be understood, of course, that this volume gathers Dr. Parsons's verses alone. The companion volume containing his translation of Dante and a brief biographical sketch by Miss Guiney represents the great poetic passion of the man.

4 PARK STREET, BOSTON,
October, 1898.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
ON A BUST OF DANTE	1
DIRGE FOR ONE WHO FELL IN BATTLE	4
A DIRGE	6
UPON A LADY SINGING	8
TO FRANCESCA	10
SONG	11
SONG FOR SETTING	13
VIVA LA MUSICA	14
PIERI, VALE!	16
MUSICA TRIONFANTE	18
THE INTELLECTUAL REPUBLIC	20
ADDRESS FOR THE OPENING OF THE BOSTON THEATRE	25
ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE PLAYERS' CLUB	29
PROEM	32
PILGRIN'S ISLE	35
DOWN BY THE SHORE IN DECEMBER	37
THE PEOPLE OF THE DEEP	39
MARY BOOTH	44
HER EPITAPH	46
LOUISA'S GRAVE	48
TO A YOUNG GIRL DYING	50
THE SCULPTOR'S FUNERAL	51
" INTO THE NOISELESS COUNTRY "	57
STUART'S BURIAL	58

ON THE DEATH OF DANIEL WEBSTER	61
EMERSON	65
ANDREW	67
EVERETT	68
ASPROMONTE	70
TO JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL	73
TO HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW	76
WITH A VOLUME OF KEATS	78
THE BIRTHPLACE OF ROBERT BURNS	80
THE PENNYROYAL	82
JULY	84
THE SCALLOP-SHELL	86
THE LAST GENTIAN	88
ON A MAGNOLIA FLOWER	90
TO A LILAC	92
THE TAKING OF SEBASTOPOL	96
DECEMBER FOURTEENTH	100
ST. JAMES'S PARK	103
VESPERS ON THE SHORE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN	105
THE TEMPLE OF CONCORD AT GIRGENTI	109
CAMPANILE DI PISA	110
SORRENTO	115
HUDSON RIVER	118
THE SHADOW OF THE OBELISK	122
LA PINETA DISTRUTTA	127
LETTER FROM AMERICA TO A FRIEND IN TUSCANY	129
ROSLIN CHAPEL	133
BY THE SUDBURY	135
INSCRIPTION FOR A DRINKING FOUNTAIN AT WAYLAND	137
MARTIAL ODE	138
GUY FAWKES DAY AT THE OLD HOUSE IN SUDBURY	140
THE OLD HOUSE IN SUDBURY TWENTY YEARS AFTER- WARDS	143
MY SUDBURY MISTLETOE	146

CONTENTS

vii

THE WILLEY HOUSE	147
THE ROSE AND THE ORIOLE	155
SAIN'T VALENTINE'S DAY	157
HEALTH AND WEALTH AND LOVE AND LEISURE	159
NATURAL HISTORY OF THE PEACOCK	161
TO A LADY, WITH A HEAD OF POPE PIUS NINTH	163
TO A LADY, IN RETURN FOR A BOOK OF MICHEL ANGELO'S SONNETS	165
TO A HUNGARIAN LADY — HOMEWARD BOUND	167
ALLE SOHELLE	168
TO JOSEPHINE	171
LILY OF STRATH-FARRAR	172
OBITUARY	174
IN RETURN FOR SOME PRAIRIE BIRDS	176
TO MADDALENA	178
CANDLEMAS NIGHT	179
ON A PHOTOGRAPH RECEIVED FROM A FRIEND IN ROME	182
ON A HEAD OF HERMIONE	183
TO A LADY, WITH A HEAD OF DIANA	184
WITH A GIFT OF LILY-BUDS	187
WATCHING THE RIVER	189
NENIA AMORIS	191
THINK NOT OF ME AMID THE CROWD	192
IN REMEMBRANCE	194
EPITAPH ON A CHILD	196
STANZAS	197
SLEEP	199
TO A "MAGDALEN"	201
THE GROOMSMAN TO HIS MISTRESS	203
SOTTO L' USBERGO DEL SENTIRSI PURO	206
"LIKE AS THE LARK"	207
INSCRIPTION FOR AN ALMS CHEST MADE OF CAMPHOR- WOOD	209
A CHRISTMAS CAROL	211