

**SNOW-BOUND: AMONG  
THE HILLS, SONGS OF  
LABOR: MABEL MARTIN:  
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Snow-Bound: Among the Hills, Songs of Labor: Mabel Martin: And Other Poems by John Greenleaf Whittier

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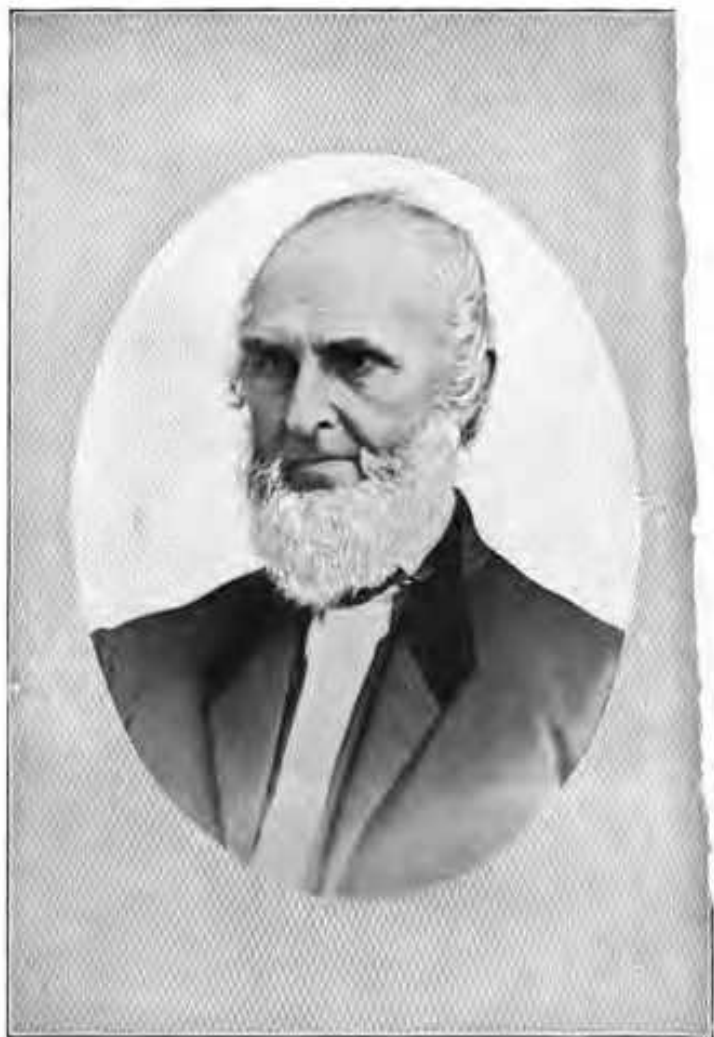
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**JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER**

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*John George Hillier*

The Riverside Literature Series

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SNOW-BOUND: AMONG THE HILLS  
SONGS OF LABOR: MABEL  
MARTIN: AND OTHER  
POEMS

BY

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH AND  
EXPLANATORY NOTES



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SNOW-BOUND, AMONG THE HILLS,  
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*WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH AND  
EXPLANATORY NOTES*





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## A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JOHN GREEN- LEAF WHITTIER.

### I.

THE house is still standing in East Haverhill, Massachusetts, where Whittier was born, December 17, 1807. It was built near the close of the seventeenth century by an ancestor of the poet, it sheltered several generations of Whittiers, in it John Greenleaf Whittier lived till his thirtieth year, and it is likely to enjoy a long lease of life in association with his name, for after his death it was purchased to be held in trust as a shrine, and its chief room has been restored to the condition in which it was when the boy was living in it, the recollection of whose experience inspired that idyl of New England life, "Snow-Bound."

It is to "Snow-Bound" that one resorts for the most natural and delightful narrative of the associations amongst which Whittier passed his boyhood. His family held to the tenets of the Friends, and the discipline of that society, in connection with the somewhat rigorous exactions of country life in New England in the early part of the century, determined the character of the formal education which he received. In later life he was wont to refer to the journals of Friends which he found in the scanty library in his father's house as forming a large part of his reading in boyhood. He steeped his mind with their thoughts and learned to love their authors for their unconscious saintliness. There were not more than thirty volumes on the shelves, and, with a passion for reading, he read them over and over. One of these books, however, was the Bible, and he possessed himself of its contents, becoming not only familiar with the text, but penetrated by the spirit.