

# **COMMEMORATI VE POEMS**

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Commemorative Poems by Davis N. Johnson

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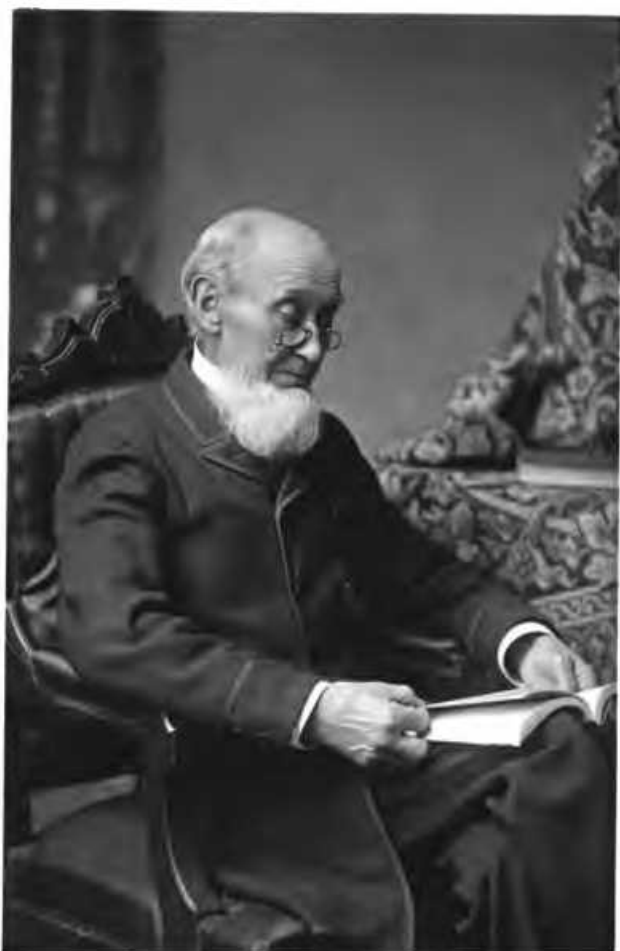
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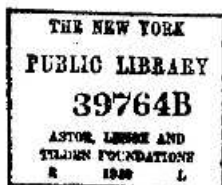
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IN MEMORY OF  
My Departed Wife,  
AND TO THE  
Children Who Survive,  
I DEDICATE THIS LITTLE VOLUME,  
AS THE MOST PRECIOUS LEGACY  
IT IS IN MY POWER  
TO BESTOW.

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## PREFACE.

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A PREFACE should contain what the readers of the book thus announced, ought to know, concerning the purpose of the author. This preface is written with this end in view. The contents of this volume were prepared, for the most part, for various commemorative occasions, observed in our city through a period of nearly forty years.

The several organizations thus represented constitute a large factor in a community among whom the author has lived almost from infancy. This work, therefore, has an interest to the people of Lynn, and a local character peculiar to itself, representing a certain phase of the literature of our community. It is proper to add, that the writer of these lines had no intention of giving them this more permanent form until he had received assurance, from those best qualified to judge, that it would be a welcome addition to whatever the archives of our city contain of the literary productions of its citizens.

Of the quality of this work he cannot, of course, speak. He may be permitted to say, however, that he has no idle and false pretense to offer as an apology for his performance. He has no

intention, therefore, of saying to his readers—who are largely his friends and acquaintances—that these lines were the hasty production of a few precious hours now and then snatched from the exacting demands of a laborious profession; for this would not be true. Whatever the degree of merit that belongs to this work, or to anything he has written, whether in prose or verse, the writer has done his best, or as nearly so as circumstances permitted; and he would have done better if he had possessed higher endowments and a wider culture.

The few German translations, made many years ago, will not, it is hoped, lessen the value of this collection; and the few pieces not strictly commemorative in their character, or those commemorative only of personal qualities, rather than of public events, will hardly be regarded as an irrelevant addition.

It is not, then, with indifference, that the author commits this little venture to the waves of time. If, on its way to the oblivion that sooner or later is the destiny of all perishable things, it shall linger a little while among the "Enchanted Islands" of popular favor before it reaches the Lethæan lake, his highest expectations will be realized.

D. N. J.