# FROM THE POETIC WORKS OF JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

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Legends and lyrics from the poetic works of John Greenleaf Whittier by John Greenleaf Whittier

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### JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

# FROM THE POETIC WORKS OF JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER



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## LEGENDS AND LYRICS

FROM THE POETIC WORKS OF JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER





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#### THE TENT ON THE BEACH.

114 1

And one there was, a dreamer born,

Who, with a mission to fulfil,

Had left the Muses' haunts to turn

The crank of an opinion-mill,

Making his rustic reed of song

A weapon in the war with wrong,

Yoking his fancy to the breaking-plough

That beam-deep turned the soil for truth to

spring and grow.

Too quiet seemed the man to ride

The winged Hiptogriff Reform;

Was his a voice from side to side

To pierce the tumult of the storm?

A silent, shy, peace-loving man,

He seemed no fiery partisan

To hold his way against the public frown,

The han of Church and State, the fierce mob's hounding down.

For while he wrought with strepuous will The work his hands had found to do, He heard the fiful music still Of winds that out of dream-land blew.

#### The Tent on the Beach.

17

The din about him could not drown What the strange voices whispered down; Along his task-field weird processions swept, The visionary pomp of stately phantoms stepped.

The common air was thick with dreams,—
He told them to the toiling crowd;
Such music as the woods and streams
Sang in his ear he sang aloud;
In still, shut hays, on windy capes,
He heard the call of beckoning shapes,
And, as the gray old shadows prompted him,
To homely moulds of rhyme he shaped their legends
grim.



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