

POEMS

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Poems by Sarah Helen Whitman

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SARAH HELEN WHITMAN

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BY

SARAH HELEN WHITMAN.



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INTRODUCTION.

THE Nicholas Powers of three generations in Rhode Island traced their descent from Nicholas le Poer, whose castle of Don Isle was destroyed by Cromwell. The heroic defense of this castle by the baroness of Don Isle is the subject of a poem in the present volume. Sarah Helen Power, daughter of the last Nicholas Power, was born in Providence, Rhode Island, January 19, 1803, and died June 27, 1878. Marrying John W. Whitman, a lawyer of Boston, in 1828, she was left a widow by his death in 1833. Betrothed to Edgar Poe, in 1848, a few months before his death, the engagement was broken, on the eve of marriage, by the interference of friends. The early life of the poet was shadowed by the long absence of her father, and her later years were almost wholly devoted to a sister, left her in sacred charge by her mother. The poem, "In Memoriam," is the requiem of this sister. This poem, Mrs. Whitman's last, has all the intellectual vigor of youth, though written