THE HERMIT OF MOSS POND. A ROMANCE OF THE UPPER SUSQUEHANNA

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The Hermit of Moss Pond. A Romance of the Upper Susquehanna by James Pitcher

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JAMES PITCHER

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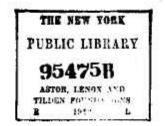
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Introductory.

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(The Apper Susquebanna.)

Baily Prayer.

W the morning, Lord, I pray, Grant thy lavor through this day; Help me all my burdens bear, Shield me from the tempter's stare.

When the day has grown to noon, Grant thy favor, lest I soon Heedless he of thy dear love, While through tolls and cares I move.

When my daily task is dont, Grant thy favor, ere the san, Hastening in his westward flight, Drops the sable pail of night.

When mine eyelids close in sleep, Grant thy favor; o'er me keep Loving vigil, so I may Welcome give the new-born day.

1. Introductory.

The "Glimmerglass" in beauty lies, Beneath unrivaled azure skies.

> To eastward, in condition still As when the Redman roamed at will, Majestic hills rise from the shore, With virgin forests covered o'er; While to the westward may be seen Less rugged hills with vales between, Whose gentler slopes and richer soil Reward the farmers' patient toil.

At either end a village lies, Whence heavenward-pointing steeples rise. The shore is punctuated round With camps and cottages, here found, Which gleam from jutting points among, Like gems upon a necklace strung.

THE HERMIT OF MOSS POND.

The waters of this fairy lake Sometimes a silvery mirror make, In which the forests, hills and capes Are reproduced in magic shapes Of monsters stretched along the shore, With strange bilateral trappings o'er.

Here from the Natty Bumppo's deck, Or from the lesser craft that fleck The glassy surface of the lake, The pleasure seckers often take The health-promoting mountain air, And view the prospects, rich and rare:

Kingfisher Tower at first appears; The Sleeping Lion next uprears His stalwart shape against the skies, Near where the Sunken Island lies.

Or if the travelers are inclined To more romantic turn of mind,

1. Li

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