

**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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The Hermit  
of  
=Moss Pond.=

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A Romance

of the

Upper Susquehanna,

by

James Ditcher.

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Bartwick Seminary, N. H.

1899.

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## Table of Contents.

I.	Introductory,	-	-	-	5
II.	The Wanderer,	-	-	-	19
III.	Joseph Manly,	-	-	-	25
IV.	Disappearance,	-	-	-	33
V.	Agnes Daire,	-	-	-	47
VI.	Walks and Talks,	-	-	-	57
VII.	Defalcation,	-	-	-	85
VIII.	Some Letters,	-	-	-	93
IX.	Decline,	-	-	-	115
X.	School,	-	-	-	123
XI.	The Hermit,	-	-	-	131
XII.	Moss Pond,	-	-	-	137
XIII.	Recognition,	-	-	-	143
XIV.	Graduation,	-	-	-	155
XV.	The Trial,	-	-	-	165
XVI.	Fruition,	-	-	-	181

I.

## **Introductory.**

(The Upper Susquehanna.)



### Daily Prayer.

**I**N the morning, Lord, I pray,  
Grant thy favor through this day;  
Help me all my burdens bear,  
Shield me from the tempter's snare.

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

When my daily task is done,  
Grant thy favor, ere the sun,  
Hastening in his westward flight,  
Drops the sable pall 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.

**M**IDWAY within the Empire State,—  
A commonwealth both rich and great,—  
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 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 seekers 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,