

**TRUTHFUL JAMES
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Truthful James and other poems by Bret Harte

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BRET HARTE

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AND OTHER POEMS**

TRUTHFUL JAMES

AND

OTHER POEMS.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

THAT HEATHEN CHINEE,

DOW'S FLAT, JIM,

AND

FURTHER LANGUAGE FROM TRUTHFUL JAMES.

BY

BRET HARTE, 1839-1900

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PART I.



TRUTHFUL JAMES

AND OTHER POEMS.



HIS ANSWER TO "HER LETTER."

REPORTED BY TRUTHFUL JAMES.

BEING asked by an intimate party,—
Which the same I would term as a friend,—
Which his health it were vain to call hearty,
Since the mind to deceit it might lend;
For his arm it was broken quite recent,
And has something gone wrong with his lung,—
Which is why it is proper and decent
I should write what he runs off his tongue :

First, he says, Miss, he's read through your letter
To the end,—and the end came too soon ;
That a slight illness kept him your debtor
(Which for weeks he was wild as a loon) ;
That his spirits are buoyant as yours is ;
That with you, Miss, he challenges Fate
(Which the language that invalid uses
At times it were vain to relate).

And he says that the mountains are fairer
For once being held in your thought ;
That each rock holds a wealth that is rarer
Than ever by gold-sceker sought
(Which are words he would put in these pages,
By a party not given to guile ;
Which the same not, at date, paying wages,
Might produce in the sinful a smile).

He remembers the ball at the Ferry,
And the ride, and the gate, and the vow,
And the rose that you gave him,—that very
Same rose he is treasuring now
(Which his blanket he's kicked on his trunk, Miss,
And insists on his legs being free ;
And his language to me from his bunk, Miss,
Is frequent and painful and free) ;