

**BALLADS AND
OTHER POEMS**

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Ballads and Other Poems by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

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BY

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW,

AUTHOR OF "VOICES OF THE NIGHT,"
"HYPERION," &c.

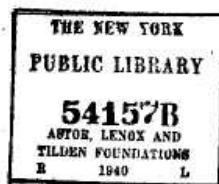
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CONTENTS.

PREFACE	PAGE
	vii

BALLADS.

The Skeleton in Armour	29
The Wreck of the Hesperus	42
The Luck of Edenhall	48
The Elected Knight	53

THE CHILDREN OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	59
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MISCELLANEOUS.

The Village Blacksmith	99
Endymion	103
The Two Locks of Hair	106
It is not always May	109
The Rainy Day	111

WOR 19 FEB 36

God's-Acre	113
To the River Charles	115
Blind Bartimeus	118
The Goblet of Life	120
Maidenhood	125
Excelsior	129

PREFACE.

THERE is one poem in this volume, in reference to which a few introductory remarks may be useful. It is *The Children of the Lord's Supper*, from the Swedish of Bishop Tegnér; a poem which enjoys no inconsiderable reputation in the North of Europe, and for its beauty and simplicity merits the attention of English readers. It is an Idyl, descriptive of scenes in a Swedish village; and belongs to the same class of poems, as the *Luise* of Voss and the *Hermann und Dorothea* of Göthe. But the Swedish Poet has been

guided by a surer taste, than his German predecessors. His tone is pure and elevated; and he rarely, if ever, mistakes what is trivial for what is simple.

There is something patriarchal still lingering about rural life in Sweden, which renders it a fit theme for song. Almost primeval simplicity reigns over that Northern land,—almost primeval solitude and stillness. You pass out from the gate of the city, and, as if by magic, the scene changes to a wild, woodland landscape. Around you are forests of fir. Over head hang the long, fan-like branches, trailing with moss, and heavy with red and blue cones. Under foot is a carpet of yellow leaves; and the air is warm and balmy. On a wooden bridge you cross a little silver stream; and anon come forth into a pleasant and sunny land of farms. Wooden fences