

**THE RIVERSIDE LITERATURE SERIES: THE  
VISION OF SIR LAUNFAL UNDER THE  
OLD ELM, AND OTHER POEMS. WITH A  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH AND NOTES, A  
PORTRAIT AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS**

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The Riverside Literature Series: The Vision of Sir Launfal under the Old Elm, and Other Poems.  
With a Biographical Sketch and Notes, a Portrait and Other Illustrations by James Russell  
Lowell

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**JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL**

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*The Riverside Literature Series.*

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A PORTRAIT AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS*



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**THE VISION OF SIR LAUNFAL**  
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## A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

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### I.

#### ELMWOOD.

ABOUT half a mile from the Craigie House in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on the road leading to the old town of Watertown, is Elmwood, a spacious square house set amongst lilac and syringa bushes, and overtopped by elms. Pleasant fields are on either side, and from the windows one may look out on the Charles River winding its way among the marshes. The house itself is one of a group which before the war for independence belonged to Boston merchants and officers of the crown who refused to take the side of the revolutionary party. Tory Row was the name given to the broad winding road on which the houses stood. Great farms and gardens were attached to them, and some sign of their roomy ease still remains. The estates fell into the hands of various persons after the war, and in process of time Longfellow came to occupy Craigie House. Elmwood at that time was the property of the Reverend Charles Lowell, minister of the West Church in Boston, and when Longfellow thus became his neighbor, James Russell Lowell was a junior in Harvard College. He was born at Elmwood, February 22, 1819.