

FROM MUSCATINE: VERSES

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From Muscatine: Verses by George Meason Whicher

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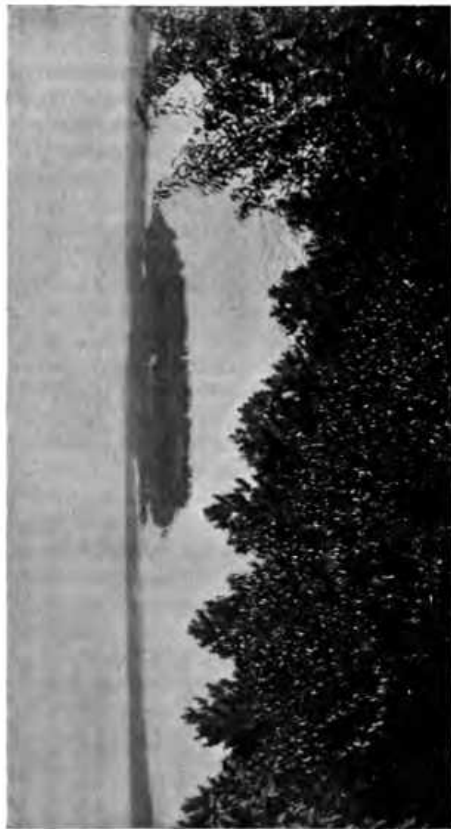
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GEORGE MEASON WHICHER

**FROM MUSCATINE:
VERSES**



"The river's all a-sparkle, an' the Tomhead is all green."
Page 11.

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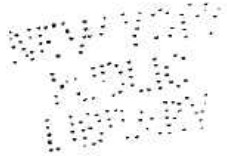
· VERSES

BY
GEORGE MEASON WHICHER

F. A. NEIDIG
MUSCATINE, IOWA
MCMXII

1912

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CONTENTS.

PREFACE	7
DEDICATION	9
THE RETURN	11
TWO MEMORIES	13
JUNE	15
NUMBER TWO	17
IN OTHER YEARS	24
CHANGES	25
SALLY	27
AT LOWE'S RUN	30
CONTENTMENT	35
THE BUILDER	36
A CHALLENGE	37
TO FAME	38
TO H. F. S.	39
THE PASTOR	40
A PORTRAIT	42
EPISTLE TO GEORGE MOORE	43
TO ELLIS PARKER BUTLER	46
TO I. B. RICHMAN	47
THE USUAL BRAND	49
PARTING SONG	54
DOWN THE SLOUGH	57
SEILER'S PAWND	59
IN EXILE	62
BY THE RIVER	64
A-CLURKUN' FOR HARBAUGH	66
A WARNING	68
A MELON SONG	69
WHEN HARRY ASKS	72

PREFACE

Reminiscences of one's youth, whether in verse or prose, are likely to possess at least a faint flavor of the elegy. Yet in re-reading these verses, the sporadic production of many years, I am somewhat surprised to see how perceptible that flavor has become. For the Muscatine of the early Seventies, as I remember it, was far from being elegiac. Life was set to many different tunes, but most of them were cheerful. This booklet, however, does not aim to be more than a fragmentary expression of one person's memories, printed with the hope of giving pleasure to those who share them or others like them.

I hasten to add that the "dialects" in which some of the pieces are written, do not pretend to be either phonetically exact or locally characteristic. They are conventional merely, and as far from real life as the characters who are supposed to use them.

The one companion of my boyhood who would have been most interested in these lines, has long since passed beyond the reach of any words that might be written here. As a slight memorial of our long companionship, I have included in this book some verses written by him, and all the more appropriate since they are addressed to another friend from Muscatine.

G. M. W.

ALDERHITHE,
MIDDLE HADDAM, CONNECTICUT.
June 1912.

*Deep in the fountain's gloom
The coolest water lies;
Leaf-hid from casual eyes
The sweetest flowers will bloom.*

*Something the grateful heart
May tell of what it owes,
But never can disclose
The larger, deeper part.*

*O Love and Faith and Care
From whom my life once came!
I may not write each name
Nor tell what thanks ye share.*

*Be this my secret token,
O friends, and more than friends!
Herein your debtor sends
Such thanks as are not spoken.*