

POEMS

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Poems by G. A. Wheelock

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G. A. WHEELOCK

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BY

G. A. WHEELLOCK



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Mrs. S. B. Elliot,
Keene, N. H.

PREFACE

GEORGE ALEXANDER WHEELLOCK was born in 1816, and has passed his life in Keene, N. H. He graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1836. He has never married, but lived for many years in the family of his sister, Mrs. John Henry Elliot, and later in the family of his nephew, William H. Elliot, in the house on Main Street which is referred to in the poem called the "Large, Yellow House." The "Golden Wedding" was that of Mr. and Mrs. John Elliot, grandparents of W. H. Elliot, which took place in the same house about fifty years ago.

Mr. Wheelock has spent his life in the study of natural history, geology, and botany, and has thoroughly explored the region of Cheshire County. He was for many years chairman of the School Committee of Keene, and has always taken a great interest in the schools, teachers, and individual scholars.

"Thanksgiving Day" refers to the marriage of his niece, Emily Elliot (now Mrs. Tucker Daland), and her trip abroad.

PREFACE

"Silent Way" was a beautiful wooded lane just south of Keene Village, and a favorite walk. Reference is here made to the cutting away of the trees, leaving it simply a bare road. Mr. Wheelock gave a park to the town of Keene, and has planted it with many varieties of trees and flowers with his own hands. He was an enthusiastic skater, and the "Gray-haired Skater" was suggested by his skating at an advanced age. His niece and nephew have country houses at Nelson, N. H., near Breed's Pond. "Nelson Sketches" describes that country. Gad Newell was a well-known preacher in Nelson, who is buried in the old graveyard near their houses. Julia, John, Rosamond, Elliot, and Alice are his great-nephews and nieces.

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