

IRVING, WASHINGTON, was born at New York in 1783. He left school in 1800, and began the study of law. In 1804 he made a voyage to Europe for the benefit of his health. He was called to the bar in 1806, but never practised. His literary career began at this time by the publication of humorous tales and sketches. In 1810 he entered into partnership with his brothers in a large commercial enterprise. In 1815 he again went to Europe, where he remained for many years. In 1817 his firm failed, and he was obliged to turn to literature for support. He spent some time on the continent, and then returned to England as Secretary of the U. S. Legation. He returned to the United States in 1832. From 1842 to 1846 he was Ambassador to Spain. He lived during his later years at Sunnyside on the Hudson, where he died in 1859. His principal works are *Washington*, *Christopher Columbus*, *Goldsmith*, *The Alhambra*, and *The Sketch-Book*.

KEATS, JOHN, was born at London in 1791. He was educated at Enfield, and afterwards apprenticed to a surgeon at Edmonton. After completing his apprenticeship in 1815, he came to London to walk the hospitals, but soon drifted into literary work. His volumes were published at regular intervals, but did not receive a very kind welcome from the critics. Symptoms of consumption now began to appear. The melancholy into which he was plunged by his brother's death, and his hopeless passion for Fanny Brawne, complicated matters. He died at Rome in 1821, and was buried in the Protestant cemetery there. His principal works are *Endymion*, *Lamia*, *The Eve of St. Agnes* and *Isabella*.

LAMB, CHARLES, was born at London in 1775, and educated at Christ's Hospital. Here he formed an intimacy with Coleridge. After holding a clerkship in the South-Sea House for a short time, he entered the service of the East India Company, with whom he remained for thirty-three years. At the end of this period he retired on a pension of £450 per annum. He died in 1834. During his life Lamb assumed the care of his sister, who, in a fit of insanity, had killed her mother. This was a heavy burden, but it was borne without a murmur. He was naturally of a gay, convivial disposition, and liked to surround himself with congenial associates. The two strains, the grave and the gay, may be seen side by side in almost all his work. His most important works are *Essays of Elia*, *Last Essays of Elia*, *Tales from Shakespeare* and *Specimens of the English Dramatic Poets*.

LOWELL, JAMES RUSSELL, was born at Cambridge, Mass., in 1819. He was educated at Harvard, and was admitted to the bar in 1841. He