

PREFACE.

It was not (originally) my intention to have my poems (if they be worthy of the name) placed before the public in the form of a book ; but a number of my most zealous friends have urged me to such a pitch that I have consented to have them printed. I confess that I feel almost in the position of an intruder in attempting it, knowing the unmerciful criticism to which they will be exposed if they should at all be distributed. To those critically inclined, I would ask the following favors, viz: Be fair and be truthful ; do not condemn without a thought, or belittle just for the sake of gratifying that selfish spirit that exists in us all. If, in criticising my book, such criticism is governed by a desire to do good, and a feeling of good-will is predominant, I will promise, for my part, to try and reconcile myself to it and be profited therefrom. My book will most probably be noted for its want of precise and flowery language, but for this defect I have what I hope may be an acceptable excuse, viz : I have not had the opportunity of attending to my educational wants, being kept almost constantly employed at hard labor ; but I have the consolation of knowing that, however plainly and coarsely they may have been put together, they are for the most part founded on some truthful basis, though it would be impossible for any person laying the smallest claim to the poetic, to entirely rid him or herself of the imaginative. The part of my rhymical productions re-