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THE POETRY OF ANGLO-SAXON AMERICA.

"THE Poetry of Anglo-Saxon America? What an anomaly!" Perhaps our reader will say—"America has no poetry." True; and we might, with some propriety, have headed this article *the no-poetry of America*. But before concluding, we shall venture to anticipate somewhat of that which is to be. We venture to affirm, that America possesses, in abundance, within herself, the elements of that nectar and ambrosia of the refined intellect; and such being the case, we see no reason to doubt, that, in the laboratory of the future, these elements will be combined to form that exquisite production in its genuine purity.

But "what!" it may be exclaimed on the other hand, "America no poetry! Where are the sweet verses of Bryant, of Longfellow, of Willis, the prose-poetry of Irving, &c.?" We wish we could suggest the name of a Provincialist to add to the list. Ah, my friend, these are Americans, it is true. They are also poets, at all events in the estimation of a large portion of the critical world; but they are not *American poets*. Their writings—the writings of all Cis-Atlantic poets—are, in every essential point, so nearly universally European, that the exceptions are too few and too trifling to make us refrain from including them all in the sweeping assertion—they are not American poets.

Those "Sons of Song," who do string the lyre in the Western Hemisphere, form a much smaller portion of the literary public in America, than their brethren do of that in Europe. Their compositions form a much smaller proportion of the literary production of America, than poetical works do in the literature of any country in the Old World. Not only this, but Poetry, of whatever authorship, is almost a drug in the American book-market. A frequent complaint with the *trade*, is, that Poetry does not "go down" with the people of this country. And yet a worse feature in the case, is, that a greater quantity of the article is bought, than what is read by the purchasers; for, as admiration of poetical composition is supposed to be an evidence of