

PREFACE.

THESE poems have been written under various, and, in some cases, difficult, conditions ; in the open air, "with team afield ;" in the student's den, with the ghosts of unfinished lessons hovering gloomily about ; amid the rush and roar of railroad travel, which trains of thought are not prone to follow ; and in the editor's sanctum, where the dainty feet of the Muses do not often deign to tread.

Crude and unfinished as they are, the author has yet had the assurance to publish them, from time to time, in different periodicals, in which, it is but just to admit, they have been met by the people with unexpected favor. While his judgment has often failed to endorse the kind words spoken for them, he has naturally not felt it in his heart to file any remonstrances.

He has been asked, by friends in all parts of the country, to put his poems into a more durable form than they have hitherto possessed ; and it is in accordance with these requests that he now presents " Farm Ballads " to the public.