

their verses. We notice much that is charming and pleasing to sense, but we fail to see the pure, uplifting sentiments that we discover in the writings of Longfellow, Tennyson and Whittier. The latter is so simple, homely and natural; and for purity of thought cannot be surpassed.

John Greenleaf Whittier was born at Haverhill, Massachusetts, December 17, 1807. Until the age of eighteen he worked on a farm, and occasionally as a shoemaker. In 1829 he went to Boston as editor of a newspaper, and in the following year became editor of the *New England Weekly Review*, published at Hartford, Conn., but in 1832 returned to Haverhill to edit the *Haverhill Gazette*. He remained there until 1836, being twice a representative in the Legislature of the State.

John G. Whittier, wide though his fame as a poet is, was little known as a man. Indeed, he never cared to be so known, for he was modest, even to shyness, shunning mixed society, and seldom appearing on public occasions or at public assemblies, unless they were discussing principles to which he was devoted. He had no inclination to travel, never having been abroad, and having made few journeys in his own country. Once a prominent Bostonian, by way of additional inducement to cross the ocean, told him that he had thousands of admirers in Great Britain, who would