

Half Hours with the Poet Whittier.

CHAPTER I.

SHORT SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

IN passing through life, how few we meet who are not lovers of poetry—who have not his or her favorite poet. In glancing over the names of our standard poets—Shakespeare, Milton, Scott, Byron, Moore, Longfellow, Tennyson, etc., it is difficult to choose from among them; they all have a loving place in our hearts.

In youth I revelled in the lays of Sir Walter Scott and Thomas Moore; but in later years none have been so sweet to me as the writings of John Greenleaf Whittier.

The motto that was written over my copy-book when a child may be true, "Comparisons are odious," but I do not think it applies in this case, for I think it well to compare the lives and characters of noted men. We gain a knowledge of them by their writings.

If we study the poems of Scott, Byron, Moore, Burns, etc., we find their characters reflected in