

INTRODUCTORY.

This book which now I offer you,
Is full of incidents, all true ;
Though it may want a poet's powers,
'Twill pass you many pleasant hours.

We canvass first my native place ;
My book, accepted with good grace
Or found within the smallest worth,
Then, I am not in vain on earth.

I don't remember ; I have been thinking,
If such attempt was made in Lincoln.
But, from the sapling springs the tree ;
Some one must start it : why not me ?

Of course, I'm nothing great, you know ;
Born, down at the old Port below.
That I have had to work and hammer ;
Had not much time to study grammar.

Still, those defects you'll overlook,
And take good care of my first book.
Read carefully, each line and column,
While I get out another volume.

J. B.