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INTRODUCTION.

Ho, room ! my Lords and Ladies blest—
 Room for ye funnie man his jest.

UNTIL the present time there has been published in this country no representative collection of American humorous verse. Many volumes of humorous American prose and poetry have been issued, some of them attaining marked popularity, but, so far as I can learn, no collection, consisting exclusively of the humour of the verse-writer, has made its appearance here. Hitherto, as far as anthologies of verse are concerned, Americans have had to content themselves with such representation as a few pages, generally at the end of volumes of English written verse, afforded. It has been my great privilege to gather together for the first time in this kingdom a collection of poems which, I hope, will be considered to do justice to the humour of the United States and Canada.

It is an easy task to introduce an old favourite. The mere mention of the popular name at once secures attention and sympathy, and the introducer