

TO THE READER.



These Poems and this Essay would probably never have been published, in their present form, but for the following circumstance :

I happened, some little time ago, to be from home on business, and met, as we say, accidentally, the author, at a friend's house, where a number of us were gathered together for social intercourse and edification. He was requested to read something for the instruction and pleasure of the company ; he consented, and amongst other pieces, not his own composition, read those now published.

I was struck with their novelty and poetic beauty, but above all, with the importance of the truths they contained, and which they so graphically and eloquently inculcated. I thought they might impress others as favorably as they had done myself, and there and then determined they should be given to the public, should the author consent. He did consent, and they are now before the reader.

I am not aware whether the pieces, which the author has thrown into the form of a "Vision," have any foundation in fact. Be that as it may, the lessons they inculcate are none the less true.