

file, at intervals, for the last four years, *Winona* is at last *done*, if not finished.

It will be observed that I have slightly changed the length and the rhythm of the old Hexameter line; but it is still Hexameter, and, I think, improved. I am not afraid of intelligent criticism: I invoke it, and will endeavor to profit by it in the future as in the past.

The reception of my "*Pauline*," at home and abroad, has been so flattering that I have been encouraged to attempt something better. That was my first real effort and full of crudities; but if the *Legends* are received by our best critics as well as "*Pauline*" was received, I shall be well pleased with my efforts.

After much thought I have decided to publish the first edition of my *Legends* here at home.

1st. Because they pertain particularly to the lakes and rivers, to the fair forests and fertile fields of our own Minnesota; and ought to be appreciated here if anywhere.

2d. Because many of our people are competent to judge whether my representations of Dakota customs, life, traditions and superstitions are correct or not; and, at the same time, the reading public of the Northwest is as intelligent and discriminating as that of any other portion of our country. If these *Legends* be appreciated and approved by our own people, who are familiar with the scenery described, and more or less, with the customs, traditions and superstitions of the Dakotas; and if, beyond that, these poems shall stand the test of candid criticism, I may give them a wider publication.

H. L. GORDON.

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