



A GLANCE AT LONGFELLOW.

IF it is true, as said by a certain critic, that poems are to be judged by the state of mind in which they leave the reader, "Evangeline," the masterpiece of this great American poet, justly deserves its high position, for its chaste style and homely imagery, with its sympathetic and occasionally dramatic story, produces a refined and elevated impression, and presents a beautiful and invigorating picture of "affection that hopes and endures and is patient", and of "the beauty and strength of woman's devotion".

"Evangeline" was Longfellow's favorite of his own poems. When the story was told to him by Hawthorne, it greatly impressed him, and tender-hearted Longfellow saw in it the foundation of a pathetic idyl.

It appears that Longfellow is more appreciated in other countries than in England. In Germany they have learned to love his simplicity and sentiment, and he is the most frequently read of foreign poets. The following express the general mental attitude towards Longfellow's poems: when Matthew Arnold had occasion to speak of "Evangeline" he mentions it as "Mr. Longfellow's pleasing and popular poem". Queen Victoria said to Longfellow, on his visit to her, "We shall not forget you. Why! all my servants read your poetry." But even though he be not classed with the poets of unassailed renown, he will ever remain dear to the hearts of the people, and especially the people of America.

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