

be found in popular favor. That this favor is merited in such a case there is no doubt, and on this ground Longfellow's reputation is certainly a deserved one. Who can read the "Psalm of Life," or "Flowers" without recognizing in their writer a poet keenly sensitive of the precarious lot of mortals? The poems which have the most commonplace subjects are the best known to the many. Every day Longfellow passed the "Village Blacksmith" on the way to his college duties. "The Old Clock on the Stairs," "The Building of the Ship" furnish other examples of his pre-eminent power of breathing the breath of life into what would appear to others too trivial for notice.

The real merit of Longfellow has been variously estimated—some have denied him the power of imagination, others that he wrote for a directly moral aim, but there can be no doubt that the reputation he has won for himself will last, and that the influence he has exerted in raising the rank of American literature will always be recognized by that people. His works will now be read more than ever, and the great mass of the English-speaking people will regret the death of a friend.

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