



Ant. B. Wemherge

E. E. Hosmer
No. 12.

Ms. B. Chamberger

THE LEPER:


AND

OTHER POEMS.

Ms. B. Chamberger
BY MRS. REBEKAH HYNEMAN.

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PREFACE.

"It is a good lesson," says Hawthorne, "though it may be a hard one, for a person who has dreamed of literary fame, and of making for himself a rank among the world's dignitaries by such means, to step out of the narrow circle in which his claims are recognised, and to find how utterly devoid of significance beyond that circle, is all that he achieves and all that he aims at." I am now stepping out of that charmed circle, and tremble lest the above truth may be too rudely enforced. In presenting my unassuming little volume to the public, I feel more than the usual share of timidity attendant upon such ventures, for I come before them unknown and unnamed. To my co-religionists I offer no apology—the very sincere love I bear for the faith of my adoption, will be to them a sufficient apology for my indifferent poetry, and, I trust, cause them to overlook much that might otherwise be condemned. But to those whose path is not as mine, and who may not be disposed to judge with equal leniency, I have no excuse to offer, but screen myself behind the shield of insignificance.

It may be as well to state here, that the "Leper" was written, and prepared for the press, before I read Willis' beautiful poem bearing the same name. Had I read that before the composition of my own, I would have shrunk from entering into competition with one whose genius so far overshadows mine; but as that is the only point of resemblance, it would scarcely be worth while to make an alteration; in all other respects, the candid reader will acquit me of plagiarism.

As I commenced my few prefatory remarks with a quotation, let me close them in the words of the gifted Shelley:—"If the attempt of an author be ineffectual, let the punishment of an unaccomplished purpose have been sufficient; let none trouble themselves to heap the dust of oblivion upon his efforts; the pile they raise will betray his grave, which might otherwise have been unknown."

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