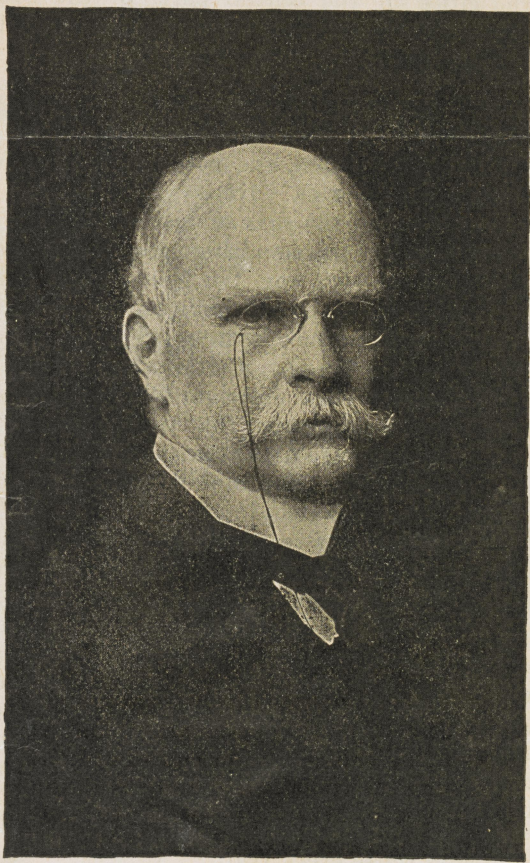


Kentucky's Poetic Novelist.

James Lane Allen, the high quality of whose works of fiction no one will question, was born near Lexington, Ky., in 1849. His ancestors on the paternal side were among the first settlers of Virginia, and were landed gentry, allied by blood or marriage to numerous historic families of the Old Dominion. His mother was of Pennsylvania Scotch-Irish ancestry.

Shortly before the opening of the civil war James Lane's father lost his property, so the school days of the son who was to shine in the literary world were few, but he was a great reader under his mother's guidance and in his long rambles through forest and field gained an insight into nature's ways to which we owe many of the most exquisite passages in his writings. He was graduated at Transylvania university at Lexington in 1872, and took up teaching as a livelihood. From a country school he advanced to the position of college professor and in 1884 removed to



James Lane Allen.

Courtesy of the Macmillan Co.

New York city to make literature his profession. He has come to be known as one of the most poetic and dramatic of American novelists.

His latest novel, "The Mettle of the Pasture," issued by the Macmillan Company, is called his best book. It contains more versatility, more humor, more characters than any of the others, excellent as they are. Among his works are "The Blue Grass Region of Kentucky," "A Kentucky Cardinal," "The Choir Invisible," "Aftermath." A critic says of him; "He has a rich, beautiful, and highly cultivated style, bordering on poetry and very rarely trespassing on forbidden ground. He is steeped in the lore of Kentucky; his sense of religion is true and entirely catholic."

