

EDMUND CLARENCE STEDMAN.

Edmund Clarence Stedman, poet and critic, was born October 8, 1833, in Hartford, Conn. He is the son of Col. Edmund Burke Stedman and Elizabeth C. Dodge, a lady distinguished for her literary ability as well as for her beauty. After the death of Col. Stedman and Mrs. Stedman's subsequent marriage with the Hon. William B. Kinney, United States Minister to Turin, Edmund, then in his sixth year, was transferred to the care of his great-uncle at Norwich, Conn. Here he remained until he was sixteen, when he entered Yale College, where he distinguished himself by his Greek and Latin compositions, and his poem, "Westminster Abbey" (printed in the *Yale Literary Magazine*), gained for him a first prize. He left college at the age of nineteen, and became editor of the *Norwich Tribune*. In 1853 he married Miss Laura Hyde Woodworth, and the following year became editor of the *Winsted (Conn.) Herald*.

In 1856 he moved to New York City, where he contributed to *Vanity Fair*, *Putnam's Monthly*, *Harper's Magazine*, and other periodicals. At the outbreak of the Civil War he went to the front as war-correspondent to the *New York World*, his crisp, incisive style, keen powers of observation, and fine imaginative faculty making his communications models of what such articles should be. In 1865 he settled down in New York as a broker in Wall Street, in which business he is still engaged, his literary work being all done after office hours and during his vacations.

Edmund Clarence Stedman ranks as one of the foremost of the later American poets. His most original vein is, perhaps, best seen in his light and essentially lyrical pieces. But this is not to say that these do not frequently show native power, fine fancy, dramatic vigor, and tender and true sentiment. "Pan in Wall Street" and "The Lord's-Day Gale," are among the best of these.

Mr. Stedman's poems which first attracted the public attention were "The Diamond Wedding," a brilliant social satire, "Lager Bier," and "How Old John Brown Took Harper's Ferry." These first appeared in the *New York Tribune*, in 1859, and were published later in book form, with other poems, under the title, "Poems, Lyric and Idyllic." "Alice of Monmouth," a picture of war experience in Washington and Virginia, during the first two years of the war, written while he was in Washington, was his next poetic production. This was followed by "The Blameless Prince," published in 1869, one of the longest and most elaborate of his works.

In 1874, with T. B. Aldrich, he edited "Cameos," selected from the works of Walter Savage Landor; also, with an introduction, the Poems of Austin Dobson. About 1875, Mr. Stedman began to devote himself to critical writing, and contributed to *Scribner's Magazine* a series of sketches of the poets and poetry of Great Britain from the accession of Queen Victoria to the present time.

These were rewritten and published as "Victorian Poets." This volume is an elaborate review of contemporary English verse, constituting a most valuable hand-book to the poetic literature of this period. Ten years later he brought out in a similar manner "Poets of America," a critical review of American poets and

poetry than which we are unable to recall any truer estimate of the literature of our age and country or one expressed in a clearer and more captivating style. The book has met with deserved success, having gone through several editions. In 1877 was published "Hawthorne, and other Poems;" this tribute to the great novelist being the finest yet paid to his memory. In 1884 a "Household Edition" of Mr. Stedman's poems was brought out, and his whole works in three volumes in 1885. He is now engaged with Miss Ellen M. Hutchinson on "A Library of American Literature," to be completed in ten volumes, of which six are now published. This when completed will be the most thorough *résumé* of this great subject that has ever been given to the public.

Mr. Stedman has on different public occasions read his own poems, such as his "Gettysburg," at the annual meeting of the Army of the Potomac in Cleveland, and the "Dartmouth Ode," before that college in 1871, and his "Monument to Greeley," at the dedication of the monument to that great journalist, of whom, especially in his younger days, Mr. Stedman was an ardent admirer.

He has been engaged at intervals during many years on a complete metrical translation of the Greek idyllic poets.