

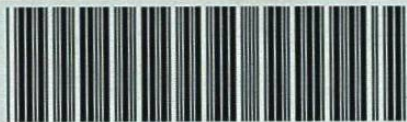
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The Riverside Literature Series

THE VISION OF SIR LAUNFAL
AND OTHER POEMS

BY

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, NOTES, PORTRAITS
AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS

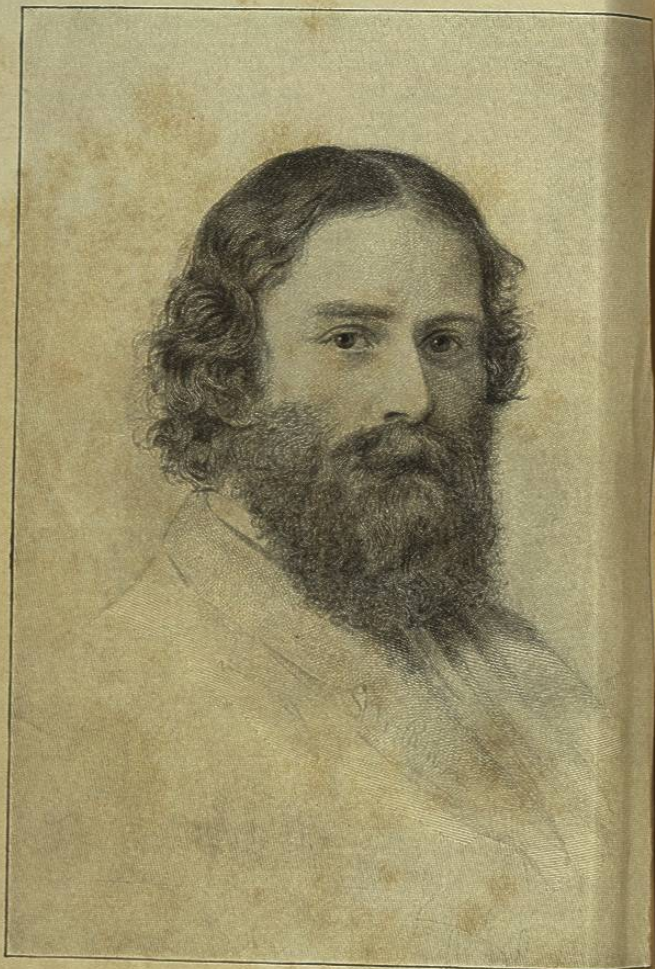
AND WITH AIDS TO THE STUDY OF
THE VISION OF SIR LAUNFAL

BY

H. A. DAVIDSON



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JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

From the crayon by S. W. Rouse in the possession of Professor Charles Eliot Norton

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SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

I

ELMWOOD

ABOUT half a mile from the Craigie House in Cambridge, Mass., on the road leading to the old town of Watertown, is Elmwood, a spacious square house set amongst lilac and syringa bushes, and overtopped by elms. Pleasant fields are on either side, and from the windows one may look out on the Charles River winding its way among the marshes. The house itself is one of a group which before the war for independence belonged to Boston merchants and officers of the crown who refused to take the side of the revolutionary party. Tory Row was the name given to the broad winding road on which the houses stood. Great farms and gardens were attached to them, and some sign of their roomy ease still remains. The estates fell into the hands of various persons after the war, and in process of time Longfellow came to occupy Craigie House. Elmwood at that time was the property of the Reverend Charles Lowell, minister of the West Church in Boston; and when Longfellow thus became his neighbor, James Russell Lowell was a Junior in Harvard College. He was born at Elmwood February 22, 1819. Any one who will read *An Indian-Summer-Reverie* will discover how affectionately Lowell dwelt on the scenes of nature and life amidst which he grew up. Indeed, it would be a pleasant task to draw from the full storehouse of his poetry the golden phrases with which he characterizes the trees, meadows, brooks, flowers, birds,