The Norton Anthology Of American Literature 1865

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short stories essays and poems written in the mid nineteenth century when poe emerson thoreau hawthorne melville and whitman were writing

this volume describes the greatest achievements in american literature from the earliest times to the present special attention has been paid to the individual works of great authors but also to literary movements ideals and animating principles and the relation of all these to english literature the author hopes this book will inspire students to investigate for themselves the remarkable american record of spirituality initiative and democratic accomplishment contained in our national literature

excerpt from a history of american literature this book attempts to trace within reasonable compass the course of literary development in america and to present the most significant facts regarding american authors and their works it places greatest emphasis on general move ments because american literature is first of all important as an expression of national life there are few american writings that require careful analysis and merit intensive study as masterpieces but in a nation where education has from the first been so generally diffused literary attempts of slight artistic merit may reflect not only the obvious changes in national life and ideals but subtler tendencies and

aspirations for this reason attention is given not only to the few greater writers but to many others whose works though less important in themselves are sometimes even more significant the plan of the book and the decision what to include and what to exclude have been influenced by the author's experiences with college classes but an attempt has been made to meet the wants of the general reader as well as those of the systematic student in tracing tendencies and movements it has been necessary to adopt a geographical classification of authors and this has sometimes been carried beyond the point where it is significant it is a matter of the greatest importance whether an author represents the spirit of puritan new england or the spirit of cavalier virginia it is of little importance whether he chances to write in new hampshire or in ver mont for convenience however smaller as well as larger groupings have been made on the basis of residence in adopting this plan the author wishes to disclaim any intention of over emphasizing sectional differences about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

excerpt from a history of american literature since 1870 american literature in the larger sense of the term began with irving and if we count the sketch book as the beginning the centennial year of its birth is yet four years hence it has been a custom especially among the writers of text books to divide this century into periods and all have agreed at one point in the mid thirties undoubtedly there began a new and distinct literary movement the names given to this new age which corresponded in a general way with the victorian era in england have been various it has been called the age of emerson the transcendental period the national period the central period national it certainly was not but among the other names there is little choice just as with the victorian era in england not much has been said as to when the period ended there has been no official closing though it has been long evident that all the forces that brought it about have long since expended themselves and that a distinctively new period has not only begun but has already quite run its course it has been our object to determine this new period and to study its distinguishing characteristics we have divided the literary history of the century into three periods denominating them as the knickerbocker period the new england period and the national period and we have made the last to begin shortly after the close of the civil war with those new forces and new ideals and broadened views that grew out of that mighty struggle the field is a new one no other book and no chapter of a book has ever attempted to handle it as a unit it is an important one it is our first really national period all american autochthonic it was not until after the war that our writers ceased to imitate and looked to their own land for material and inspiration the amount of its literary product has been uniformly high about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks com this book is a reproduction of

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