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✓ A Picturography of
Madison Cawein

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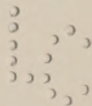
Of the First Chapter of

THE STORY OF A POET: MADISON CAWEIN

BY

OTTO A. ROTHERT ✓

Secretary of The Filson Club



JOHN P. MORTON & COMPANY

Incorporated

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

1921

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*There are fairies; verily;
Verily;
For the old owl in the tree,
Hollow tree,
He who maketh melody
For them tripping merrily,
Told it me.
There are fairies; verily,
There are fairies.*

I

A PICTUROGRAPHY OF MADISON CAWEIN

Madison Cawein as seen through sixty-three half-tone reproductions of photographs, paintings and documents bearing on his life and works, which, with their explanatory texts, present a brief biography of the poet.

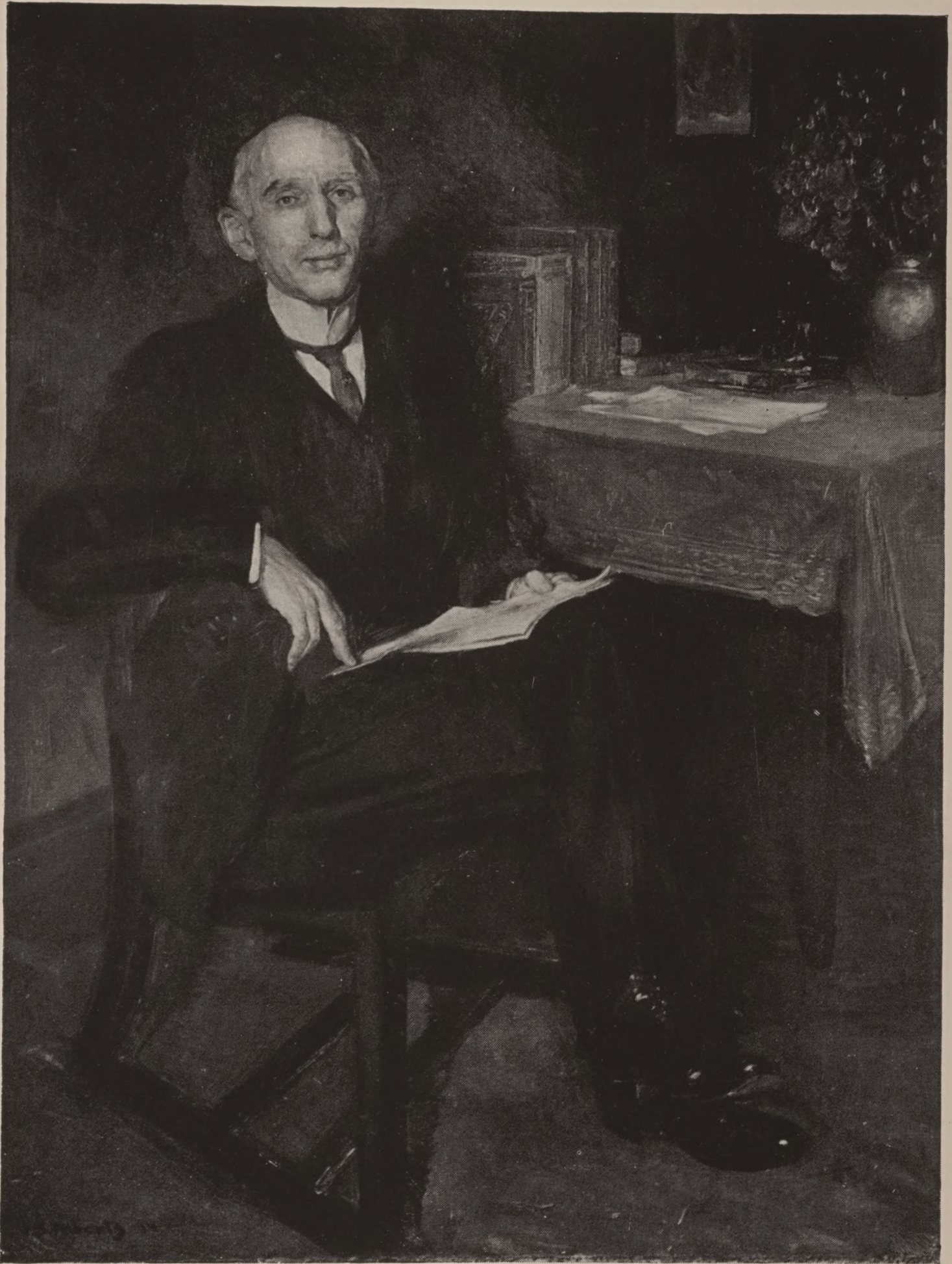
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Madison Cawein

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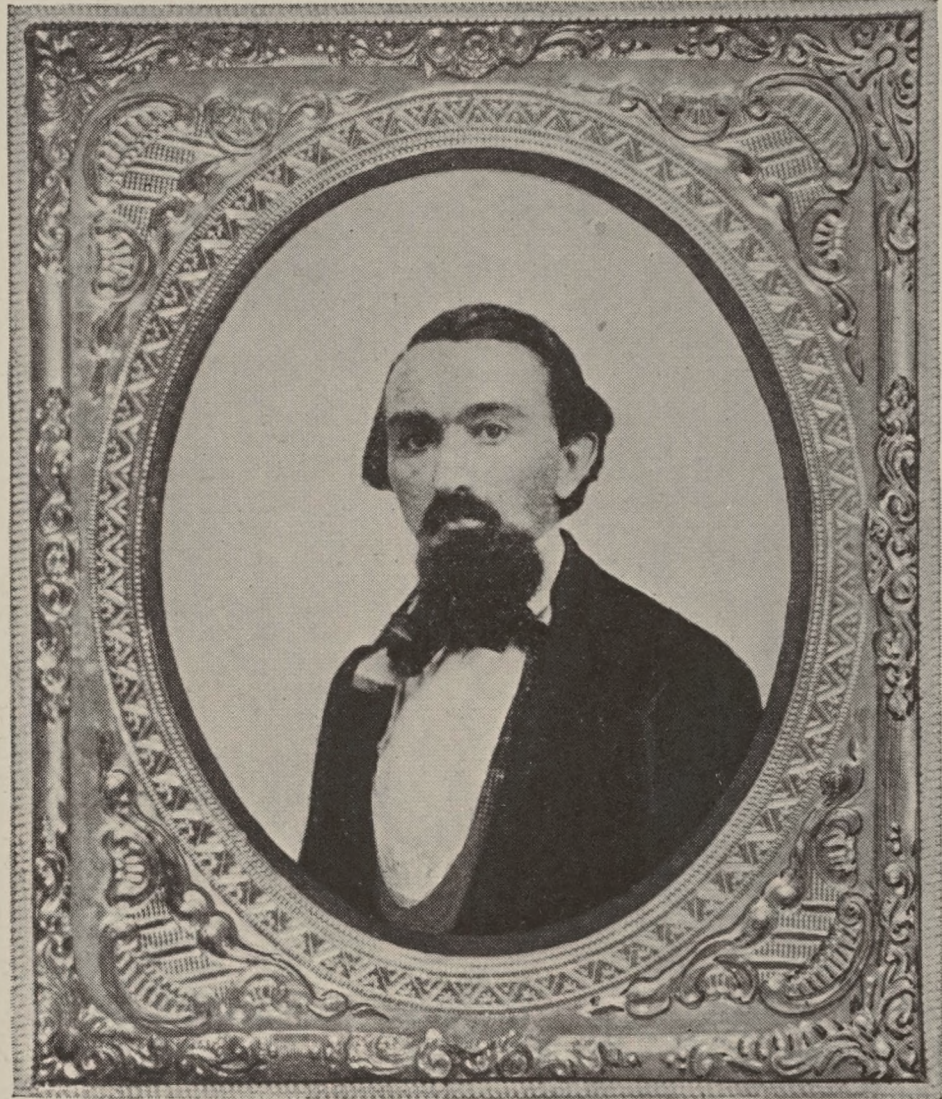
A Picturography



From an oil painting by J. Bernhard Alberts, 1914

Madison Cawein was born March 23, 1865, in Louisville, where he lived nearly all of his life, and where he died December 8, 1914.

Madison Cawein



From a daguerreotype, about 1865

Dr. William Cawein was thirty-eight years old when his son Madison, the poet, was born. Dr. Cawein was a practical Herbalist.

A Picturography



From a daguerreotype, about 1865

Mrs. William Cawein was twenty-six years old when her son Madison, the poet, was born. She was interested in Spiritualism.

Madison Cawein



From a sketch

The Herancour coat of arms. Dr. William Cawein was a descendant of Jean de Herancour who left France in 1685 for Mühlhofen, near the Rhine, Germany. There the poet's father was born in 1827.

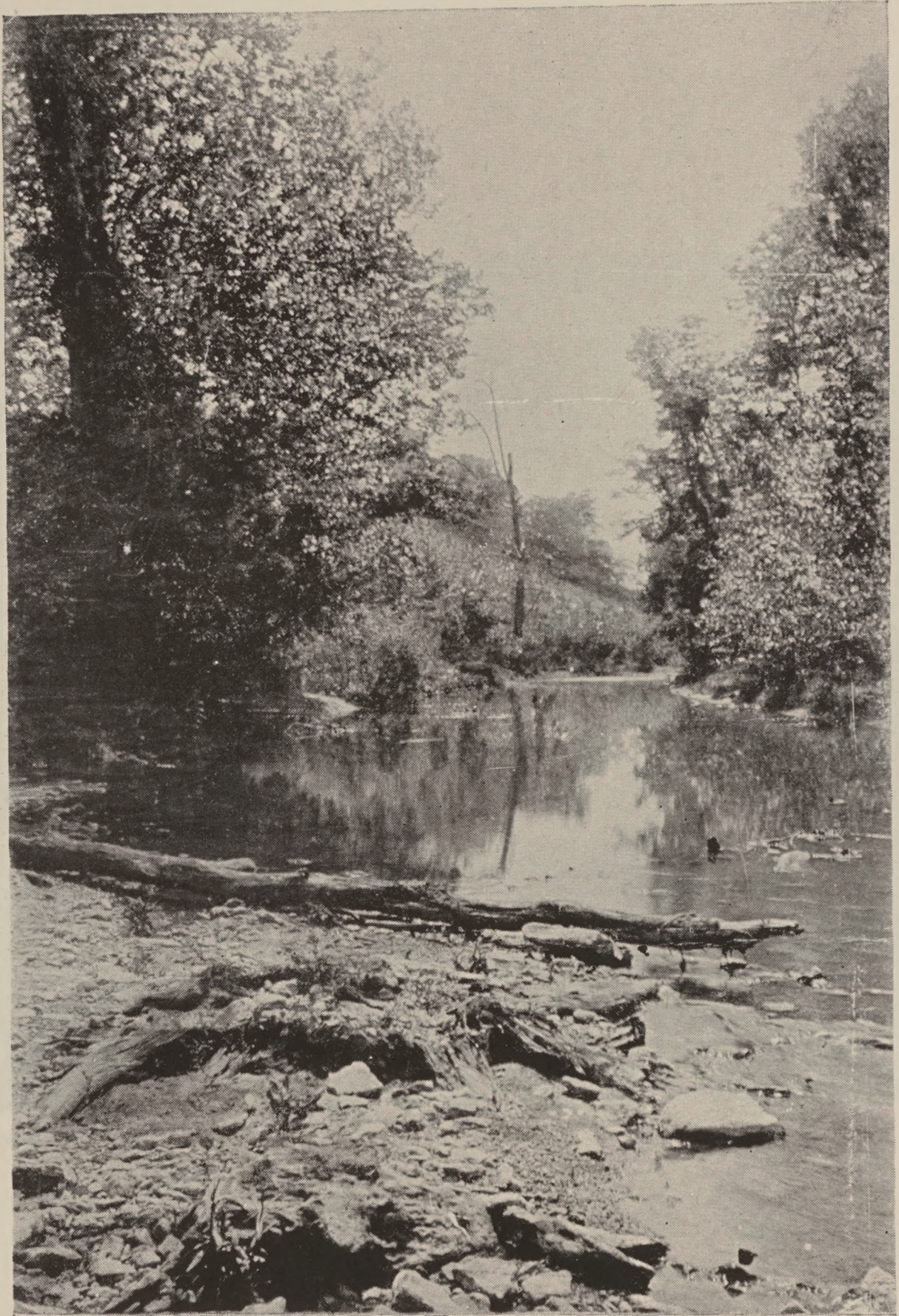
A Picturography



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

Madison Cawein was born in Louisville in a house that stood opposite the Court House, and near Fifth Street. On its site now stands a brick building three stories high with a width of four windows.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Fred W. Cawein, 1894

When Cawein was nine years of age his parents moved to Rock Springs, a resort east of Louisville, near Brownsboro, on a hill overlooking the South Fork of Harrod's Creek. Many years later the poet said, "There for the first time I came in contact with wild nature."

A Picturography



From a photograph by Otto A. Rothert, 1920

The Rock Springs Hotel was managed by Cawein's father in 1874 and 1875. Nothing remains of this once well-known resort except an old stone milk house from which there flows, now as then, a clear water spring. The poet often returned to the Rock Springs country.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Otto A. Rothert, 1920

Cawein was in his eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth years when his parents lived in a cottage on the Knobs, near New Albany, Indiana. "Here I formed my great love for nature," said the poet in his comments on his youth. In 1879 the Caweins returned to Louisville.

A Picturography



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

The Cawein cottage on the Knobs was in the center of a panorama of beautiful landscapes. On the Kentucky side, in the dim distance, can be seen Iroquois Park and Kenwood Hill. In later years the poet spent much time on these two hills near Louisville.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph, about 1881

Madison Cawein and his three brothers. Madison, the youngest, then aged about sixteen, is standing with his right hand on William's shoulder; John is holding a hat, and back of him is Charles.

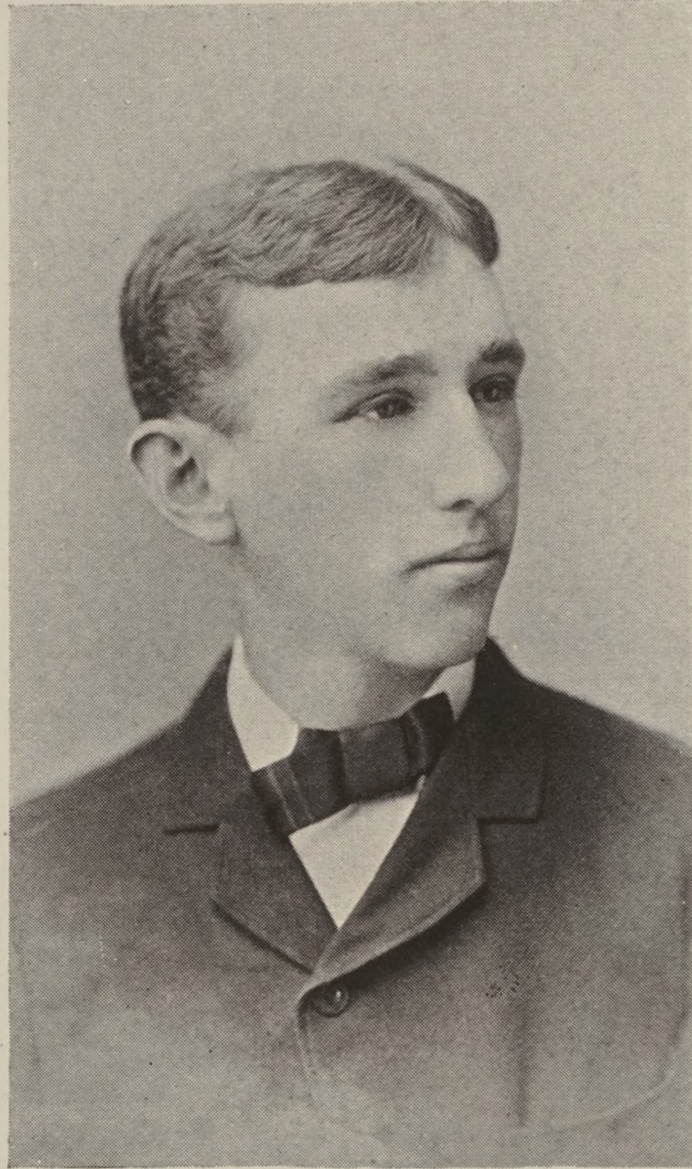
A Picturography



From a photograph, about 1884

Madison Cawein, and his brother Charles, and cousin Fred W. Cawein. Madison is standing in the center; Charles is at his right and Fred is sitting at his left. Fred was one of the poet's closest friends.

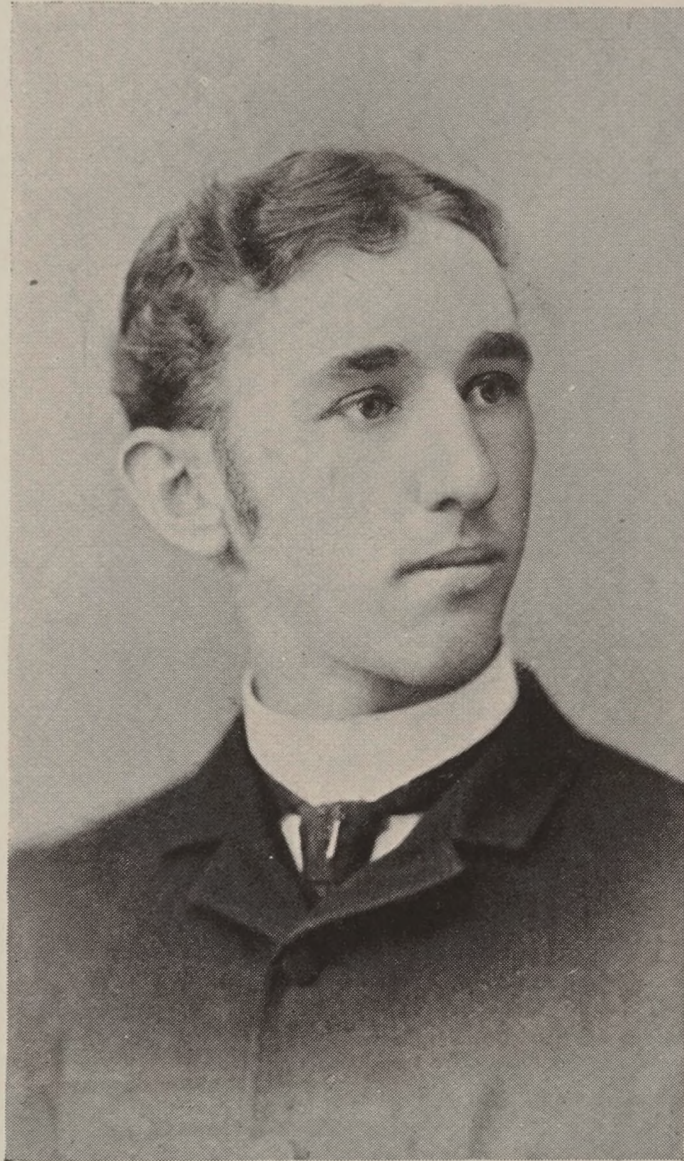
Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Doerr, 1885

Cawein as he appeared during his last year as a high school boy.

A Picturography



From a photograph by Doerr, 1887

Cawein was twenty-two years old when he published his first book.

Madison Cawein

MUSIC.

PRAYER,

BY REV. T. T. EATON, D. D.

MUSIC.

SALUTATORY with ORATION—PRISON REFORM, - - - - W. K. VANDIVER.

POEM—THE CLASS OF '86, - - - - M. J. CAWEIN.

MUSIC

ORATION—FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION, - - - - R. M. JARVIS.

ORATION—STRIKES AND STRIKERS, - - - - R. E. SIEVERS.

ATHENÆUM ORATION—KENTUCKY AND KENTUCKIANS, - - - - S. McKEE.

MUSIC.

ORATION—THE GROWTH OF MUSICAL TASTE IN LOUISVILLE - - - - G. A. WEISS.

ORATION—REPUBLICANISM IN EUROPE,
with VALEDICTORY, - - - - M. M. WALLER.

MUSIC

ALUMNI ADDRESS, - - - - ALBERT S. BRANDEIS, CLASS OF 1875.

Facsimile of second page of Commencement Program

Madison Cawein graduated from the Louisville Male High School on June 11, 1886. As shown on the Program, he was the Class Poet.

A Picturography

MUSIC.

Presentation of Prizes.

Alumni Prize.

Faculty Prize.

English Literature Prize.

Shakspeare Prize.

Conferring of Degrees,

BY F. C. LEBER, M. D.,

President of the Louisville School Board.

BENEDICTION.

MUSIC.

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

MADISON J. CAWEIN.
J. MILES GLEASON,
JAMES B. HEBDEN,
ALFRED HERR HITE.
HERMAN HOEPPNER,
ROBERT MURRELL JARVIS.

E. McKEE LATIMER.
SAMUEL McKEE, JR.
CHURCHILL TALBOT SCEARCE.
ROBERT ELWOOD SIEVERS.
MATHEW MASON WALLER.
GEORGE A. WEISS.

WILLIAM KNOX VANDIVER.

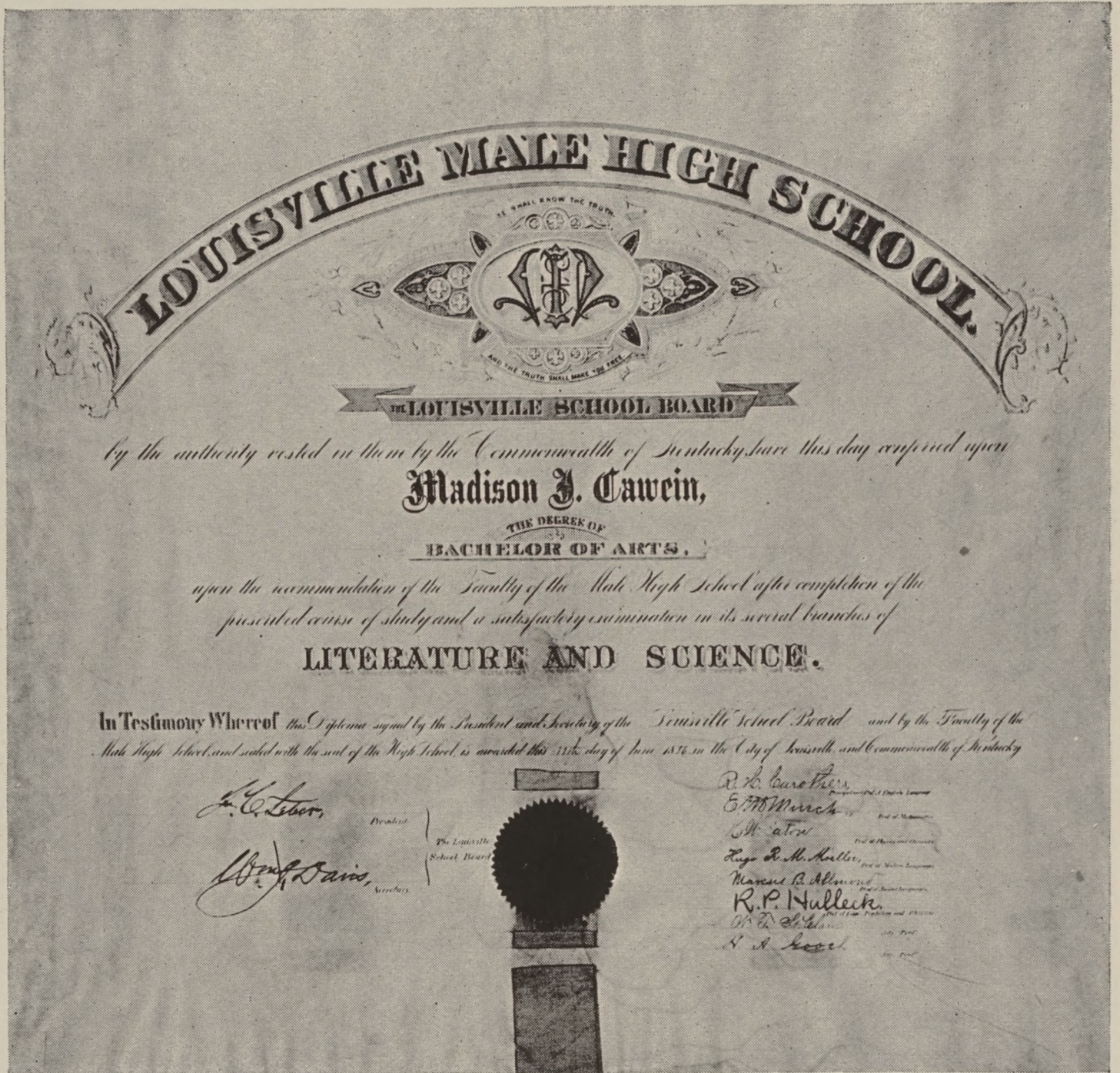
CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY.

GEORGE JOHN DREWRY.

Facsimile of third page of Commencement Program

The Class of '86 consisted of thirteen boys of whom Madison Cawein was the oldest. All received the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

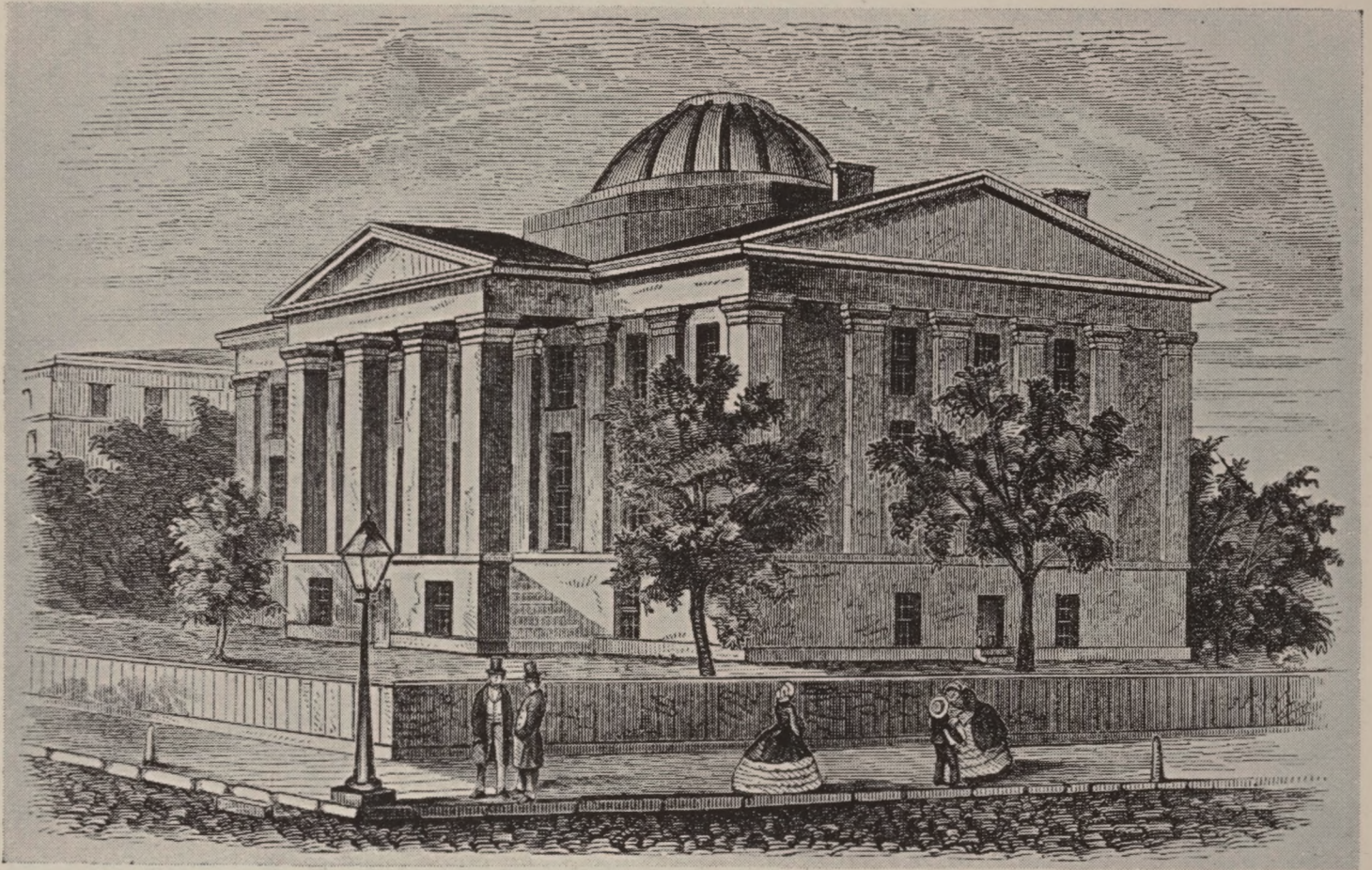
Madison Cawein



Greatly reduced facsimile of Diploma

Madison Cawein's diploma was signed by Dr. F. C. Leber, President, and Wm. J. Davis, Secretary, of the Louisville School Board; and by R. H. Carothers, Principal and Prof. of English Language; E. M. Murch, Prof. of Mathematics; H. W. Eaton, Prof. of Physics and Chemistry; Hugo R. M. Moeller, Prof. of Modern Languages; Marcus B. Allmond, Prof. of Ancient Languages; R. P. Halleck, Prof. of Logic, Psychology and Rhetoric; W. T. St. Clair, Adj. Prof.; and H. A. Gooch, Adj. Prof., the members of the faculty.

A Picturography



From a wood cut, about 1860

In 1886 the Louisville Male High School Building, Ninth and Chestnut streets, appeared very much as it had many years before Madison Cawein's school days. When Cawein attended this school it represented the academic department of the University of Louisville.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Fred W. Cawein, about 1890

Cawein lived on the south side of High Avenue, near Thirteenth Street, from 1882 to March 1886. The house was torn down many years ago. A little more than the front is shown on the extreme right.

A Picturography



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

Cawein made his home with his parents at the south-east corner of Nineteenth and Market streets from 1886 until June, 1903, when he was married. He wrote nineteen of his books while living in this house.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

In 1887, and for about six years thereafter, Cawein was a cashier in the Newmarket pool room, on Third Street, where betting on horse races was the business transacted. The building is now occupied by the Caxton Printing Company, indicated by the swinging sign.

A Picturography



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

Cawein's first book, *Blooms of the Berry*, was printed in October, 1887, by John P. Morton & Company, Main Street, which published eleven of his thirty-six volumes, and, among other books, twenty-nine of the Filson Club Publications—including this volume, Number 30.

Madison Cawein



From a water color by Fred W. Cawein, 1896

During his high school years, and for many years thereafter, Cawein often returned to the Brownsboro country where he was the guest of the Babbits, whose old farm and home are near Rock Springs.

A Picturography



From a water color by Wm. C. Cawein, 1893

In 1914, Cawein wrote: "The old water mill [Babbit's Mill] in the Valley of Rock Springs has played an important part in my poems of this locality, which I have celebrated in verse now for thirty years."

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Fred W. Cawein, 1894

Sometimes Cawein wandered alone through the beech groves, over the fields, and along the streams in the Brownsboro country, and sometimes he was accompanied by the Babbitts and other friends.

A Picturography



From a photograph by Fred W. Cawein, 1894

This picturesque old home near Brownsboro, and many other old homes and human haunts elsewhere, appealed to Cawein no less than did the forests and fields and the hills and the hollows.

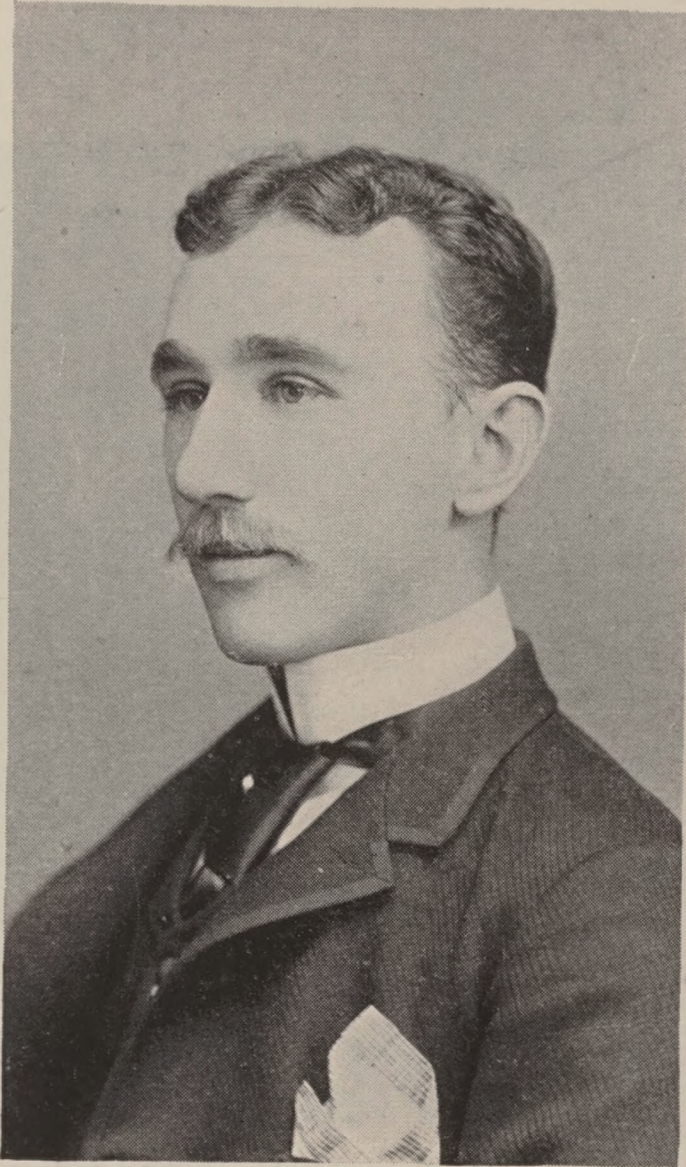
Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

Cawein made many pilgrimages to the Indiana Knobs, near New Albany, where he had spent three years of his boyhood on a farm.

A Picturography

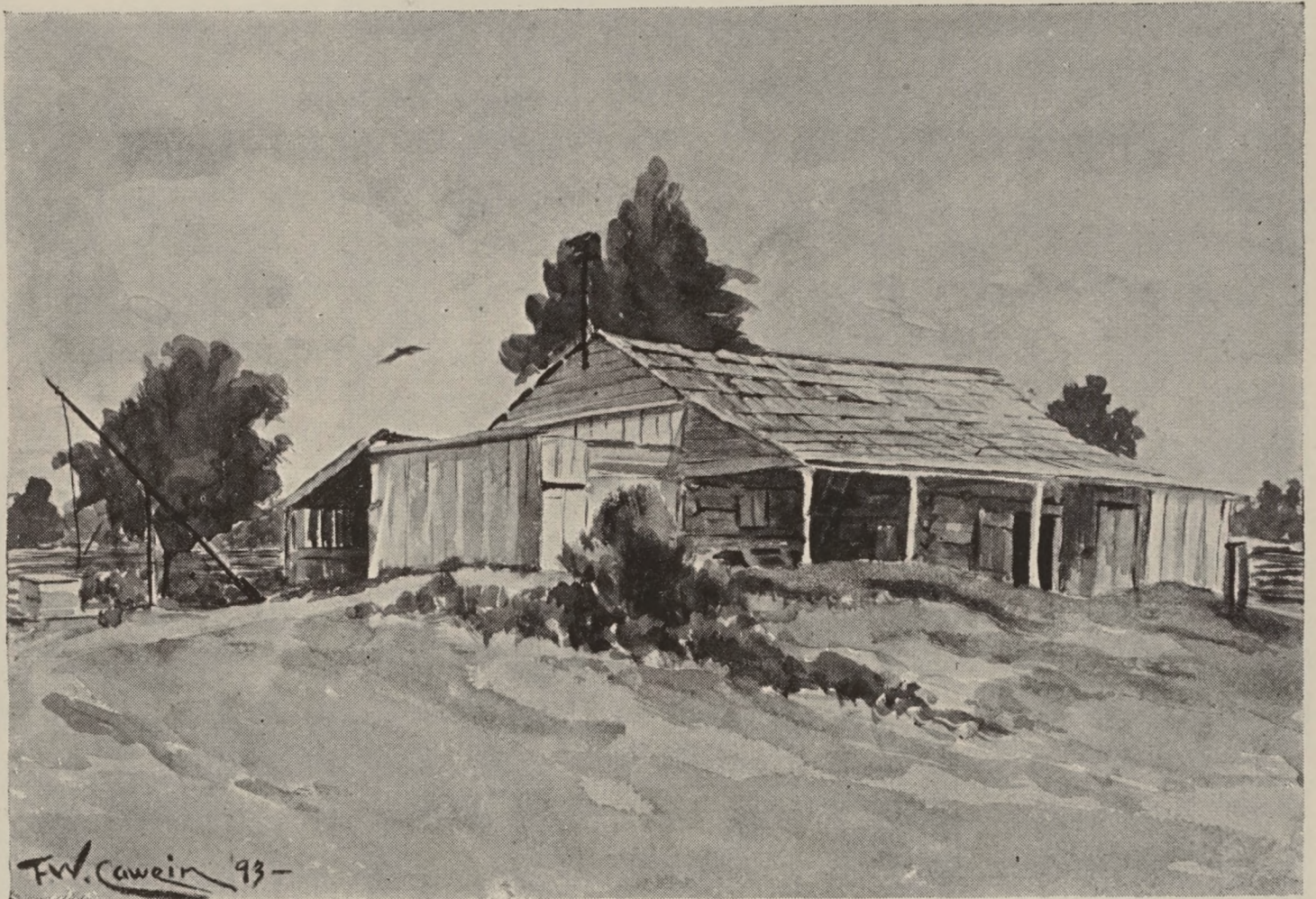


From a photograph, about 1893

Madison J. Cawein

At times Cawein left Kentucky for his health or to promote his art; but no place appealed to him as did the country around Louisville.

Madison Cawein



From a water color by Fred W. Cawein, 1893

From 1891 to 1903 the poet's father owned a small farm near Jeffersontown and about twelve miles from Louisville. Its principal features were an orchard, a vineyard and a garden. The poet often visited the place, although the Caweins never used it as a home. The largest building was an old barn, "low, swallow-swept and gray."

A Picturography



From a photograph by Fred W. Cawein, 1900

The poet in his study. Cawein lived at Nineteenth and Market streets during the first seventeen years of his literary career. Shortly after publishing his first poems he was encouraged by the Louisville press. His works attracted the attention of eminent critics in the East and in England, and he soon gained an international reputation.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Fred W. Cawein, 1902

Madison Cawein spent much of his time in the heart of nature.

A Picturography



From a photograph by James S. Escott, 1912

The Old Frog Pond near Kenwood Hill was one of Cawein's haunts.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

What is now known as the Cawein Walk was, in Cawein's time, and still is, a very secluded path in Iroquois Park. Its old stone steps were one of the poet's favorite "solitary places" for writing.

A Picturography



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

Lying just beyond the southern end of the Cawein Walk is The Bowl, one of many beautiful scenes in Iroquois Park. This large, natural park—also known as Jacob Park—was an Elysium for Cawein.

Madison Cawein



From an oil painting by Paul A. Plaschke, 1919

“The Enchanted Tree,” was painted in memory of Cawein who frequently lingered under this old sycamore on Silver Creek, near New Albany and the Silver Hills. For him it was another haunt of Pan.

A Picturography



From an oil painting by J. Bernhard Alberts, 1918

Cawein suggested to his friend J. Bernhard Alberts, in November, 1914: "If you'll paint a picture showing a faery wearing a necklace of dewdrops on a gossamer thread, I'll write a poem on it." Cawein died a few weeks later. In 1918 the artist painted "The Gossamer Thread," inspired by the Poet of the Fairies, and the Poet for Poets.

Madison Cawein



From an oil painting by Patty Thum, 1915

“Bluets and Springtime in Iroquois Park,” painted in memory of Cawein who often went to Iroquois Park to see the bluets in bloom.

A Picturography



From an oil painting by Patty Thum, 1908

“Central Park and St. Paul’s Church” showing church in which Mr. and Mrs. Cawein were married, and park near which they lived.

Madison Cawein

Mr. and Mrs. John F. McKelvey
announce the marriage of their daughter
Gertrude Foster
to

Mr. Madison J. Cawein
Thursday, June the fourth
nineteen hundred and three
Louisville, Kentucky

At Home
after July tenth
103 West Burnett

Facsimile of Wedding Announcement

Madison Julius Cawein and Gertrude Foster McKelvey were married in Louisville, Kentucky, on Thursday morning, June 4, 1903.

A Picturography



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

Mr. and Mrs. Cawein lived on the north side of Burnett Avenue, between First and Second streets, from June, 1903, to June, 1907.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Doerr, 1904

Mrs. Madison Cawein and son, Preston Hamilton Cawein. The boy—born March 18, 1904—is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Cawein.

A Picturography



From a photograph by Doerr, 1905

Madison Cawein and son, Preston Hamilton Cawein. After the death of the poet, the son's name was changed to Madison Cawein II.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

Mr. and Mrs. Cawein lived in a beautiful residence—center of picture—in St. James Court from June, 1907, to January, 1914. This house, owned by them, is now the property of their son.

A Picturography



From Book News Monthly, November, 1909

Cawein's private library contained about fifteen hundred volumes. Its bay window over the porch faced the Fountain and Court. Every room in the house was expressive of his artistic taste.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by James Speed, 1912

Cawein frequently strolled through Shawnee Park, Louisville's park on the Ohio River, watching the sunset behind the Indiana Knobs, or the moonrise, or the river glittering to the stars.

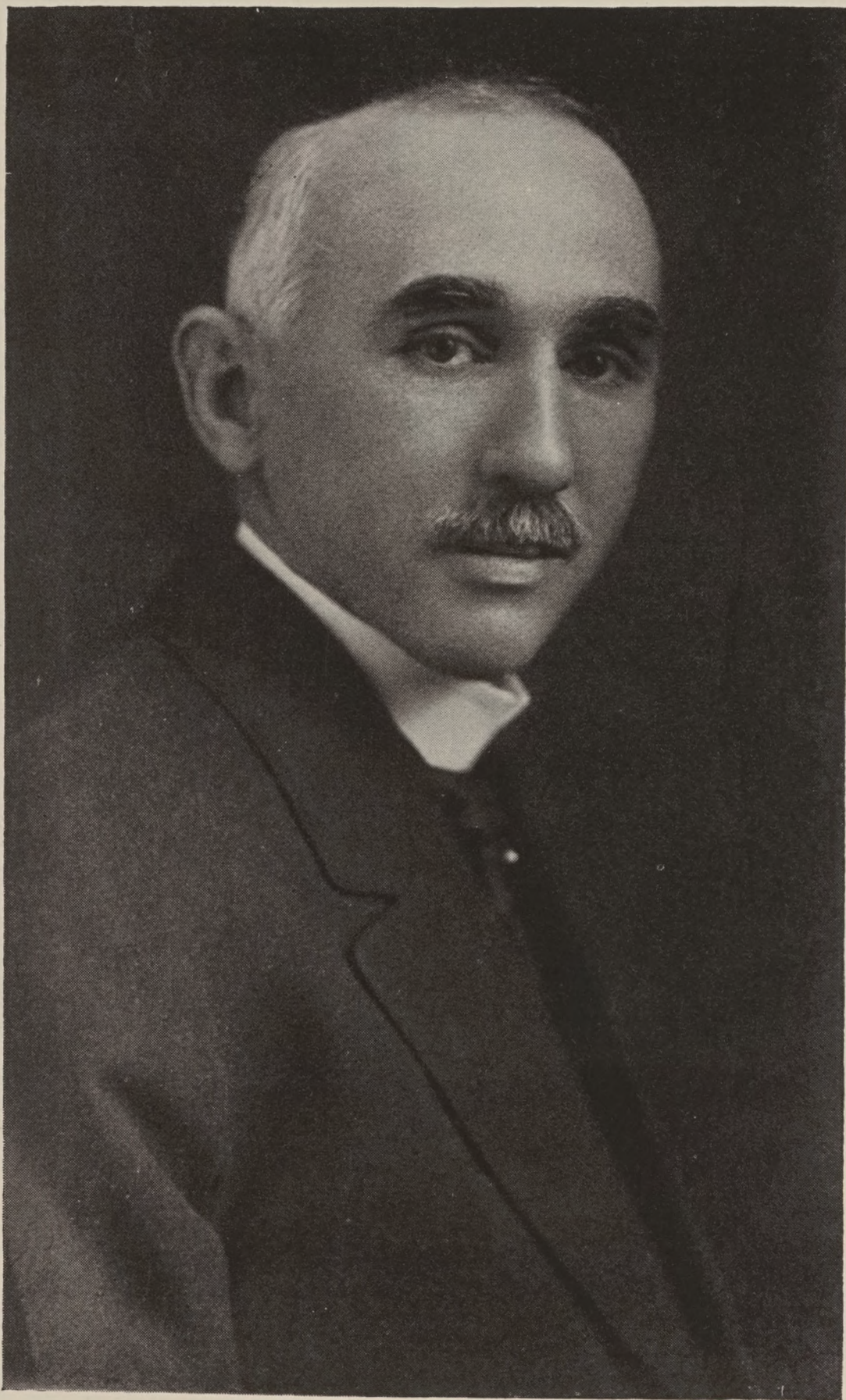
A Picturography



From a photograph by James S. Escott, 1912

Among Cawein's haunts in Cherokee Park was the ruins of Ward's Old Corn Mill, on the Middle Fork of Beargrass Creek, where Pan and Faun, and wood and water nymphs held rendezvous.

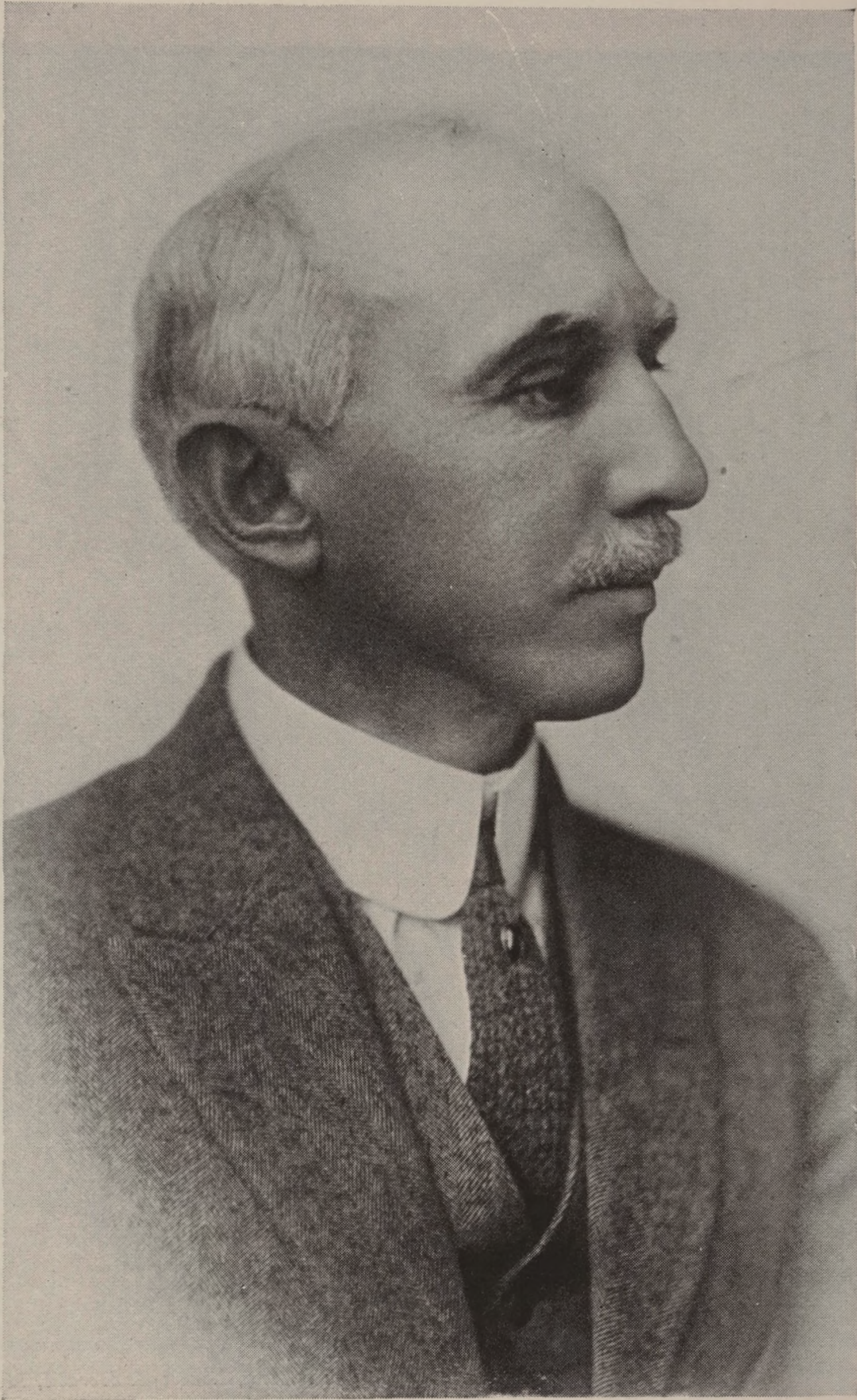
Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Steffens

Madison Cawein

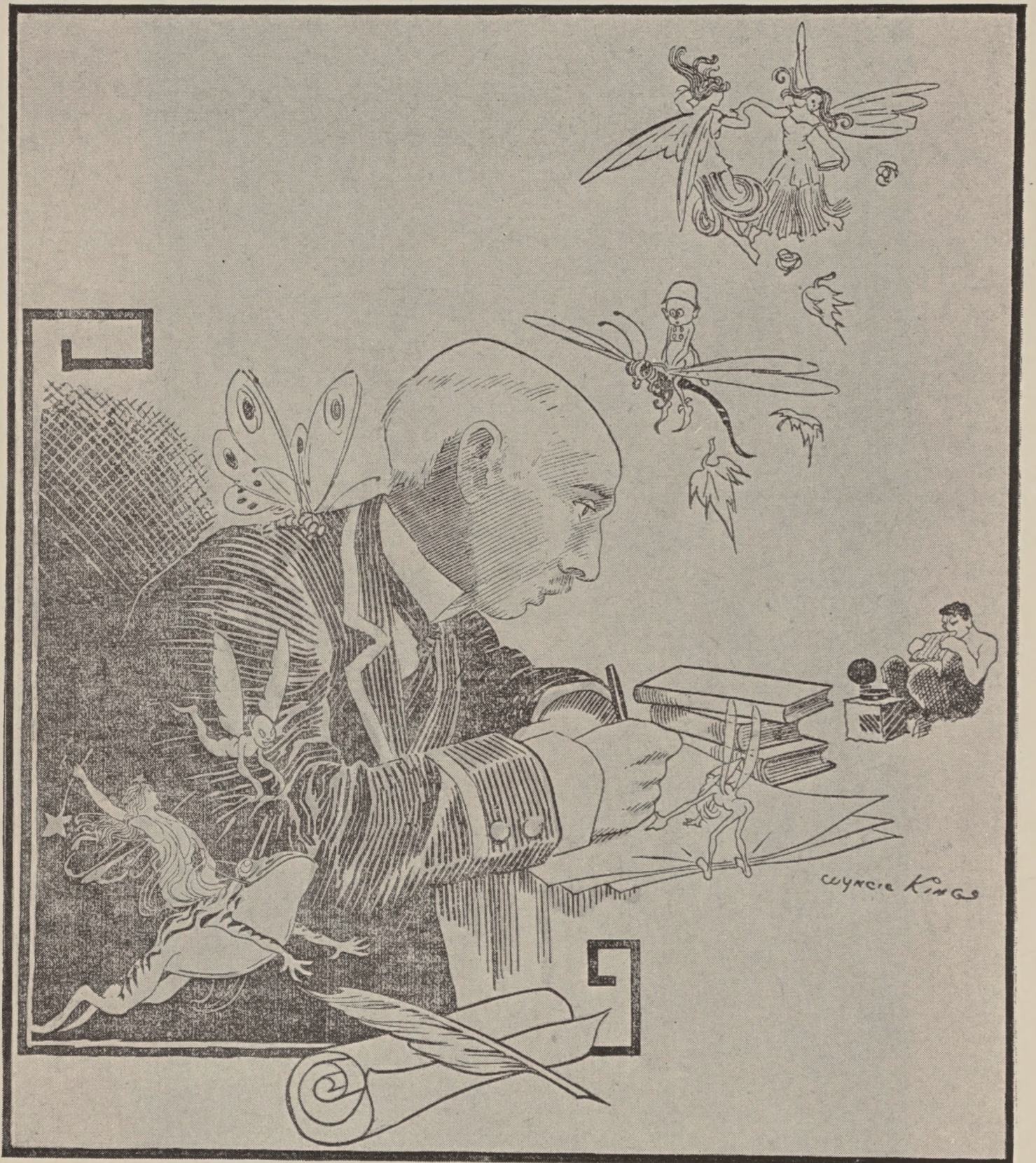
A Picturography



From a photograph by Cusick, 1912

Madison Cawein

Madison Cawein



Cartoon by Wyncie King, Louisville Herald, March 26, 1912

Cawein as seen by Wyncie King when the many Louisville admirers of the poet presented him with a Silver Loving Cup on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of his first volume of poems.

A Picturography



Cartoon by Paul A. Plaschke, *Louisville Evening Post*, March 30, 1912

Cawein as seen by Paul A. Plaschke when the public presentation of the Silver Loving Cup took place in the Louisville Free Public Library on March 25, 1912, the poet's forty-seventh birthday.

Madison Cawein



The Silver Loving Cup presented to Madison Cawein, March 25, 1912, is ten and one-half inches high and bears the following inscription:
To Madison Cawein by the Literati of Louisville under the Auspices of the Louisville Literary Club.
To Commemorate the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Publication of his First Book, *Blooms of the Berry*.
March Twenty-fifth, 1887—1912.

A Picturography



The inscription on the Bronze Bust of Madison Cawein (by James L. Roop) presented to the Louisville Free Public Library reads:
Madison Cawein, a Kentucky Tribute to a Kentucky Poet,
Presented by The Louisville Literature Club, April 25, 1913.

Madison Cawein



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

The Caweins, in January 1914, moved into the right hand apartment on the third floor of the St. James Apartment House, in St. James Court. There the poet died of apoplexy, December 8, 1914.

A Picturography



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

Cawein was buried from the First Unitarian Church, Fourth and York streets. Opposite that church stands the Louisville Free Public Library where the poet spent many hours reading books and magazines.

Madison Cawein



Cartoon by Wyncie King, Louisville Herald, December 9, 1914

The Louisville press devoted many columns to Cawein at the time of his illness and death. The Louisville Herald published this cartoon by Wyncie King: "In Avalon, The Fairy Isle in Fairy Seas."

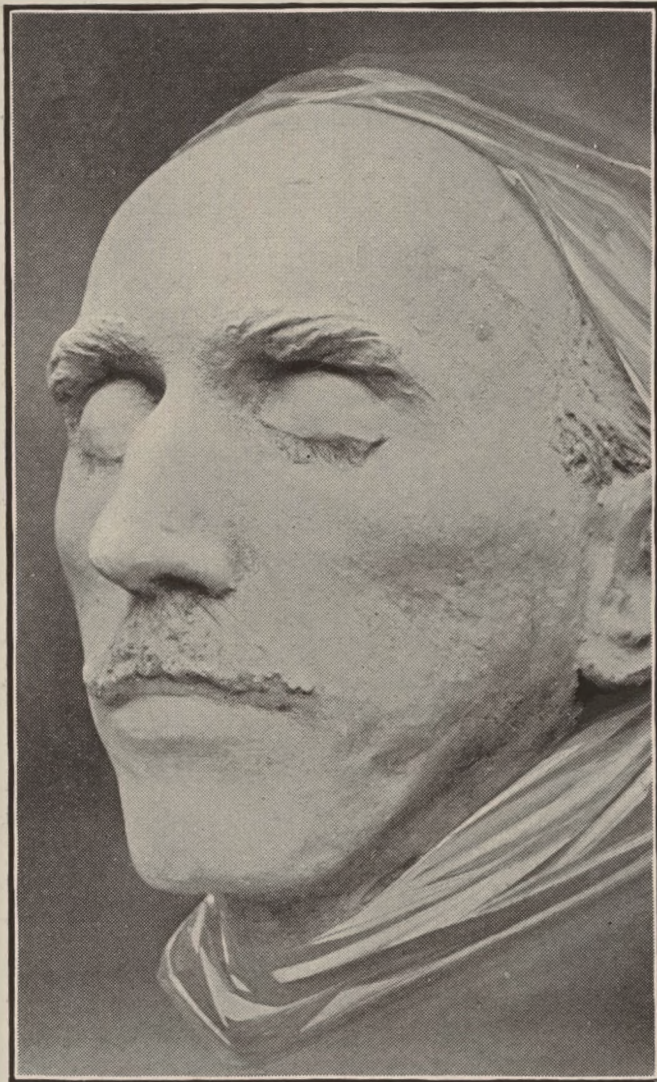
A Picturography



From a photograph by Hesse, 1920

Cawein was buried in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville. At the head of his grave is that of his father, marked by the tall stone. At the side of his grave is that of his wife who died on April 16, 1918.

Madison Cawein



Death-mask of Madison Cawein, made by James L. Roop.

A Picturography

April 10th. When
a woodpecker had
drilled the bark of a
sugar tree the sap
was running
down the side &
was full of
ants. The boys
making them serve
drink on the toddy
there of.

Found to-day April
10th 1901 - the
spring beauty blooming
in abundance in Clow-
kee park. Also the
anemone and the
hepatica or liver-
wort. The blood-wood

made great white
blots of stars in
the woods - num-
erous nebulae
from a distance
and occasionally
I came across
a precocious
spray of dutch
man's breeches
or wild bleeding
heart with its
delicately trans-
parent bells.

The virginia cow-
slip too was put
together with its tufts

Cawein filled many note-books, but as far as known, preserved very few. The two pages here shown were printed, after some changes were made, in 1906, in *Nature Notes and Impressions in Prose and Verse*.

Madison Cawein

Three times I remember
That heart ~~to~~ come ~~again~~
~~and~~
That made ~~me~~ of ~~bladder~~
And hold me heart ~~to~~ brain
And of my soul remains
With longing ~~to~~ with pain
The first one here who
taught me
To love against my will
That into knowledge
~~was~~ ~~out~~ of ~~darkness~~ brought
me
And bade me drink my fill
At ~~the~~ wild running
whose ~~eyes~~ ~~will~~ ~~me~~ ~~take~~
~~as~~ ~~though~~ ~~he~~ ~~had~~ ~~me~~ ~~take~~
piscine name
The second one ~~was~~ ~~just~~
as ~~gentle~~
of ~~his~~ whose heart I
held

Facsimile of the first of three pages in a composing note-book used by Cawein when writing in the woods—probably the year 1914. As far as is known this poem, here shown in process, was never finished.

A Picturography

Three kisses I remember
 That never come again
That make June of December
 And hold me heart and brain
 (And of my soul remain—)
 (With longing and with pain)

The first one hers who taught me
 To love against my will,
That into knowledge brought me
 And bade me drink my fill
 (At life's wild running rill—)
 (Whose passion haunts me still)

The second one was given

A transcription of the lines shown on the opposite page.

Madison Cawein

By ~~then~~ my ^{mortal} ~~ladder~~ ^{up} ~~up~~.
It ~~leads~~ me ~~to~~ ~~know~~ of ~~heaven~~
The ~~vapture~~ ~~and~~ ~~delight~~,
The ~~angel~~ ~~hosts~~ of ~~heaven~~
Knows ~~no~~ ~~more~~ of ~~delight~~
It ~~here~~.
It ~~love~~ me ~~up~~ ~~to~~ ~~heaven~~
And ~~leads~~ me ~~see~~ the ~~white~~
~~all~~ ~~day~~, ~~that~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~light~~
It ~~holds~~ me ~~with~~ ~~its~~ ~~white~~
Still ~~birds~~ ~~see~~ ~~light~~
The ~~third~~ ~~one~~ ~~filled~~
And ~~young~~ ~~with~~ ~~laughter~~ ~~abrim~~
~~coming~~ ~~of~~ ~~down~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~time~~,
Coming ~~of~~ ~~these~~ ~~sweet~~ ~~two~~ ~~and~~
No ~~birds~~ shall follow after,
That ~~made~~ ~~my~~ ~~senses~~ ~~swim~~
To ~~make~~ ~~these~~
~~will~~ ~~make~~ ~~my~~ ~~senses~~
To ~~swim~~

Facsimile of the second of three pages in a note-book used by Cawein.

A Picturography

Upon my nuptial night
(It bade me know of heaven
The rapture and delight)
The angel hosts of heaven
Know no more of delight
(It bore me up to heaven
And bade me see the white
Of dawn that on that height
Still holds me with its light.

The third one, filled with laughter
And youth with joy abrim
No kiss shall follow after
To make my senses swim.

A transcription of the lines shown on the opposite page.

Madison Cawein

Joy can never die
~~Its ~~depth~~ ~~can~~ ~~not~~ ~~die~~~~
With something
With joy that ~~can~~ ~~not~~
Golf die -
~~Following as the new world's~~
~~game.~~
One with the Cherubim
~~a moment's~~
~~Born of a ~~angel's~~ ~~old~~ ~~when~~~~
No time can ever
~~Its joy ~~can~~ ~~never~~ ~~die~~~~
Born of a girl's wild
when
Its ~~joy~~ ~~can~~ ~~never~~
die.

Facsimile of the third of three pages in a note-book used by Cawein.

A Picturography

(Its joy can never dim—
With joy that cannot dim—
Young as the new moon's rim—
Gold as the new moon's rim—
One with the cherubim—
Born of a moment's whim—
No time can ever dim—
Born of a girl's wild whim—
Its joy can never dim)

A transcription of the lines shown on the opposite page.

Madison Cawein

There is no rhyme that is half so sweet
As the song of the wind in the rippling wheat;
There is no metre that's half so fine
As the lilt of the brook under rock and vine;
And the loveliest lyric I ever heard
Was the wildwood strain of a forest bird.—
If the wind and the brook and the bird would teach
My heart their beautiful parts of speech,
And the natural art that they say these with,
My soul would sing of beauty and myth
In a rhyme and a metre that none before
Have sung in their love, or dreamed in their love,
And the world would be richer one part the more.

Reduced facsimile of a completed manuscript. This poem was first published as the Proem to *Myth and Romance*, 1899, and a few years later republished in two of Madison Cawein's other books.

A Picturography

Colossal Cave.

Kentucky

Gulfs and abysses, aisles and corridors
Of labyrinthine rock where silence drips,
And everlasting darkness broods with lips
Of adamant on earthquake-built floors;
Where forms, like those the Hemon-world implores,
The petrifying water shapes, that strips
Death's body bare, and mails it, head and hips,
In ghastly crystal whence the moisture pours.
Here where primordial night, the Gorgon, sits
Changing all life to stone and hideous death,
I seem to tread, with awe no tongue can tell,
Beneath vast domes, by torrent-tortured pits,
'Mid wrecks terrific of the ruined Earth,
An ancient causeway of forgotten Hell.

Madison Cawein

Reduced facsimile of a completed manuscript. "Caverns" was written in 1898 and shortly thereafter printed in a newspaper or magazine. It was later republished in three of Madison Cawein's books.

Madison Cawein



The thirty-six books by Madison Cawein contain about 2700 poems; about 1500 are distinct originals and about 1200 are either unchanged reprints or changed versions. His original versions comprise the greater part of twenty-five books. *The Poems of Madison Cawein*, in five large volumes, is a Compilation of his poems—in the original or in a new version—written before 1907. Six books consist chiefly of Selections he made from previous volumes. The Compilation and the various Selections cause many of his poems—some in the original, others in a changed version—to appear two or more times.

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