CONTENTS

```
OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES - INTRODUCTION
    I. Holmes's Social and Political Backgrounds and Ideas ix
   II. Holmes's Medical Career xxii
  III. Science and Religion in Holmes's Philosophy xliv
  IV. Literary Theory lviii
   V. The Boston Poet-Laureate lxxvii
  VI. The Essayist c
CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE CXIV
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY
   I. Bibliography cxvii
   II. Text cxvii
  III. Biography and Criticism cxviii
  IV. General Background cxxviii
POEMS
    To My Readers 3
  From Poems, 1836
    Old Ironsides 4
   The Last Leaf 5
    To an Insect 6
    Mv Aunt 8
    Poetry: a Metrical Essay (extract) 9
  From Poems, 1849
   The Parting Word 10
   Departed Days 21
    An After-Dinner Poem 21
   A Rhymed Lesson (extract)
   Lexington 33
 From Songs in Many Keys (1862)
   The Ploughman 35
   The Moral Bully
   After a Lecture on Wordsworth 38
   After a Lecture on Shelley 42
   Brother Jonathan's Lament for Sister Caroline 43
 From The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table (1858)
   Latter-Day Warnings 44
   The Chambered Nautilus
   The Living Temple 46
   The Two Armies 48
   Musa 50
   The Deacon's Masterpiece; or, The Wonderful "One-Hoss
     Shay" 52
   Contentment
   The Voiceless 58
```

viii Contents

From The Professor at the Breakfast-Table (1860) St. Anthony the Reformer 58 Under the Violets 50 From The Poet at the Breakfast-Table (1872) Aunt Tabitha 61 Wind-Clouds and Star-Drifts (extract) 62 Epilogue to the Breakfast-Table Series From Songs of Many Seasons (1875) Opening the Window Programme 72 Bryant's Seventieth Birthday 74 At the Banquet to the Chinese Embassy 77 Nearing the Snow-Line 70 Dorothy O. 70 The Organ-Blower At the Pantomime Poems of the Class of '20 The Boys 86 Bill and Ice 87 The Shadows 80 From Poems, Household Edition (1877) At the "Atlantic" Dinner or Old Cambridge 03 A Familiar Letter of How the Old Horse Won the Bet og From The Iron Gate and Other Poems (1880) My Aviary 105 The Iron Gate 108 From Poems, Riverside Edition (1801) To the Poets Who Only Read and Listen 111 Invità Minervà Prose Selections From The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table 113 From Elsie Venner 225 From Currents and Counter-Currents in Medical Science 343 From The Guardian Angel 370 From Mechanism in Thought and Morals 377 From Jonathan Edwards 400 From Over the Teacups 419 Letters 425 APPENDICES The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table (1831-32) 435 The Autocrat (a poem), from Punch, Oct. 20, 1894 448 NOTES 451

INDEX OF TITLES AND FIRST LINES OF POEMS 469