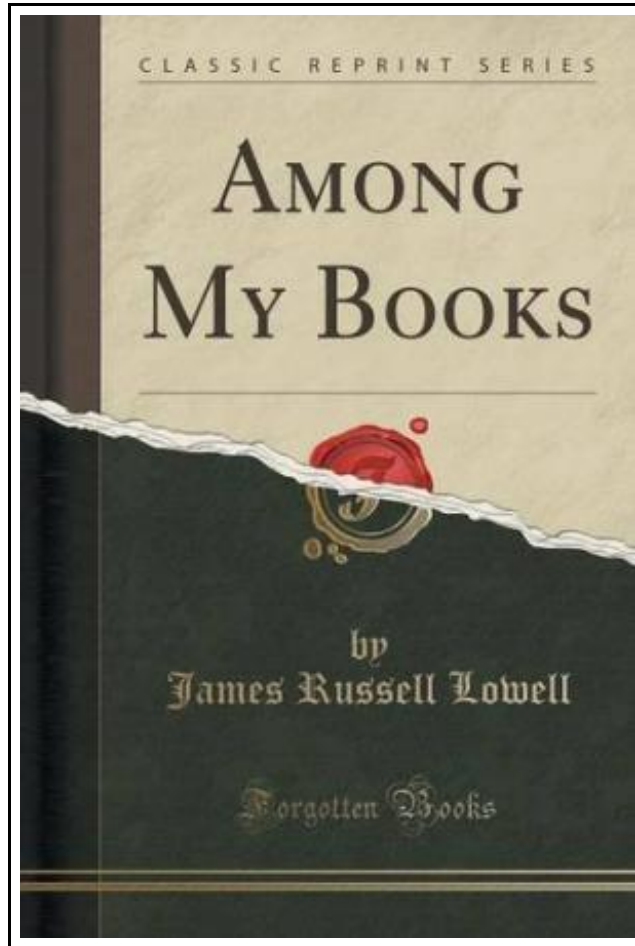


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Among My Books Some years ago when James Russell Lowell was American minister in England he wrote an Apology for a Preface to a volume of his collected essays, in which he explained that they were originally composed as lectures for an audience, part academic, part popular. This accounted for their more rhetorical tone; and we may add for their reminding their hearers continually of their author s attempt to strike an equation between himself, a New Englander of 1845, or thereabouts, and the writers and poets, men of all time, of whom they treated. Indeed a considerable share of our interest in Lowell the critic lies in his power to range his vigorous modern spirit, charged with American humour, against the moods, prejudices, superstitions, ideas, and formularies of the past. True, many of his fellow-countrymen took afterwards to discounting heavily Lowell s American quality. They said his long residence in England and his evident wish to remain there in the orbit of the court and its circles was a sure presumption of his being, at heart, a degenerate Yankee. So strong was this feeling that, when in the United States in 1888 avowedly with the desire to see there what was most American, I was invited to meet him at the house of his kinsman, the late Professor Charles Eliot Norton, some friends in Boston strongly dissuaded me from accepting the invitation. Lowell s life abroad had spoiled him as a good American and a representative man of letters; they even used an expression suggesting very much what Critos said in a scene of Cynthia s Revels - that he was another Amorphus. About...

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