

# DOWNLOAD PDF THE POETICAL WORKS OF JAMES THOMSON. [LONGER WORKS ; MISCELLANEOUS POEMS [AND SONGS].

## Chapter 1 : Poetry Antiquarian & Collectible Books for sale | eBay

*The poetical works of James Thomson: comprising all his pastoral, dramatic, lyrical and didactic poems and a few of his juvenile productions: with A life of the author. Thomson, James. London: William Tegg & Co., 18mo ( cm, "). lxxii, , [3] pp. Handsome second edition of this collection of poetry by James Thomson (*

The following sketches were the production of untutored youth, commenced in his twelfth, and occasionally resumed by the author till his twentieth year; since which time, his talents having been wholly directed to the attainment of excellence in his profession, he has been deprived of the leisure requisite to such a revision of these sheets as might have rendered them less unfit to meet the public eye. Conscious of the irregularities and defects to be found in almost every page, his friends have still believed that they possessed a poetical originality, which merited some respite from oblivion. These their opinions remain, however, to be now reproved or confirmed by a less partial public. Smith , the advertisement was written by "Henry Mathew", which most critics take to mean Anthony Stephen Mathew; [17] "Mrs Mathew was so extremely zealous in promoting the celebrity of Blake, that upon hearing him read some of his earlier efforts in poetry, she thought so well of them as to request the Rev. Henry Mathew, her husband, to join Mr. Flaxman in his truly kind offer of defraying the expense of printing them; in which he not only acquiesced, but with his usual urbanity, wrote the following advertisement. Autumn seems to predict Los , the prophetic genius and embodiment of imagination , as it is the only one of the four seasons Blake allows to speak directly, which it does in a "jolly voice. Foster Damon as "pure Romanticism, way ahead of its time. Despite his young age, the poem includes allusions to mythological figures such as Eros , Cupid and Psyche. True love doth pass away. In order to have his world a consistently dark one, he is compelled to rush frantically around the spinning earth forever, keeping one jump ahead of the rising sun, unable even to sleep in his everlasting night. In particular, the third stanza of each poem stands in diametric opposition to one another. The first reads So when she speaks, the voice of Heaven I hear So when we walk, nothing impure comes near; Each field seems Eden , and each calm retreat; Each village seems the haunt of holy feet. The languid strings do scarcely move! Whether on chrystal rocks ye rove, Beneath the bosom of the sea Wandering in many a choral grove. The Gates of Paradise , Blake would assign each element a visual representation. The shepherd leaves his mellow pipe, And sounds the trumpet shrill; The workman throws his hammer down To heave the bloody bill. Blake was very much of the popular opinion that England was the oppressor and that the American people were fighting a righteous battle for their freedom. And cause in sweet society to dwell Vile savage minds that lurk in lonely cell. Blake ironically presents the invasion as a noble crusade for Liberty , which is spoken of as a commercial value by the English lords. Beyond the investigation into notions of Liberty and the reasons for the invasion, David V. Foster Damon calls it "uncritically patriotic. Industry, commerce, agriculture, manufacture and trade are the gods directing the conflict, but the conflict is glorious and the gods worthy of worship. There seems to be no use looking for irony here. O who can answer at the throne of God? A Scene in the Last Judgement 3rd state - c. Specifically, the poem is seen as the second song of the minstrel, whose first song closes the fragment with a passionate evocation of Brutus of Troy , supposed founder of Britain. The vulnerability of the would-be deliverer suggests that spiritual captivity is a state through which the strongest of mortals must pass. Additional Content[ edit ] On the blank leaves of a copy of Poetical Sketches inscribed "from Mrs Flaxman May 15, ", are three handwritten poems which, since John Sampson in , have been attributed to Blake. Erdman includes the two pieces in Poetical Sketches simply because there is no other collection with which to associate them. Shepherd did not include them in his publication of Poetical Sketches in In his edition of the collected works, Sampson mentioned them in his Introduction to Poetical Sketches but did not include them in the collection itself. In The Complete Writings of William Blake and Geoffrey Keynes included them but divided them from Poetical Sketches, indexed them separately and dated them both Alicia Ostriker, in her William Blake: The Complete Poems , makes no reference at all to either piece throughout the volume. The

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Complete Poems , and , mentions them in a footnote, but does not reproduce them. Harold Bloom believes it to be an experiment in stream of consciousness writing.

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### Chapter 2 : Leather Poetry Antiquarian & Collectible Books for sale | eBay

*Miscellaneous poems ; Letters -- The poetical works of James Thomson. [Longer works] ; Miscellaneous poems [and songs] Bound in embossed leather, etched in gold Printed in 18 Notes.*

Edin Thomson, son of the minister of Ednam, Roxburghshire, spent most of his youth, however, at Southdean, a neighbouring parish, to which his father went. He was educated at the parish school there, at Jedburgh, and at Edinburgh, where he went with the view of studying for the ministry. The style of 1 of his earliest sermons having been objected to by the professor of divinity as being too flowery and imaginative, he gave up his clerical views and went to London in 1736, taking with him a part of what ultimately became his poem of Winter. By the influence of his friend Mallet he became tutor to Lord Binning, son of the earl of Haddington, and was introduced to Pope, Arbuthnot, Gay, and others. Winter was published in 1736, and was followed by Summer, Spring, and Autumn, when the whole were brought together as The Seasons. Previous to he had produced 1 or 2 minor poems and the tragedy of Sophonisba, which, after promising some success, was killed by the unfortunate line, "Oh! Jemmy Thomson, Jemmy Thomson, oh! He then returned to the drama and produced Agamemnon in 1737, and Edward and Eleanora in 1738. He was now in comfortable circumstances and settled in a villa near Richmond, where he amused himself with gardening and seeing his friends. In conjunction with Mallet he wrote, in 1738, the masque of Alfred, in which appeared Rule Britannia, which Mallet afterwards claimed, or allowed to be claimed, for him, but which there is every reason to believe was contributed by Thomson. In 1739 appeared Tancred and Sigismunda, the most successful of his dramas, and in 1740 Coriolanus. In May of the latter year he published The Castle of Indolence, an allegorical poem in the Spenserian stanza, generally considered to be his masterpiece. In August following he caught a chill which developed into a fever, and carried him off in his 48th year. To The Seasons, originally containing about 1000 lines, he added about 100 in his various revisions. He was the 1st to give the description of nature the leading place, and in his treatment of his theme he showed much judgment in the selection of the details to be dwelt upon. His blank verse, though not equal to that of a few other English poets, is musical and wielded in a manner suitable to his subject. In all his poems he displays the genial temper and kindly sympathies by which he was characterised as a man. He was never married, and lived an easy, indolent life, beloved by his many friends. Here James was educated initially by Robert Riccaltoun, to whose verses on "Winter" he owed the suggestion of his own poem. In 1736 he attended a school at Jedburgh, held in the aisle of the parish church. He learnt there some Latin, but with difficulty, and the earliest recorded utterance of the future poet was " Confound the building of Babel. And this was just as well, for the little that has escaped the fire contains no promise of his future powers. The incident should have left more impression than we can trace upon the mind of the poet, at this date nervous and afraid of the dark; but in Winter he writes of such stories with a quiet contempt for "superstitious horror. In 1736 he became a divinity student, and one of his exercises so enchanted a certain Auditor Benson, that he urged Thomson to go to London and there make himself a reputation as a preacher. It was partly with this object that Thomson left Edinburgh without a degree in March 1736. His mother saw him embark, and they never met again; she died on the 10th of May of that year. This heroine and poetess is supposed to have encouraged Thomson to come to England, and it is certain that she procured him a temporary home. Some introductions to the literary world he may have owed to Mallet, then tutor in the family of the duke of Montrose. It was warmly praised by Aaron Hill, a man of various interests and projects, and in his day a sort of literary oracle. It was dedicated to Sir Spencer Compton, the Speaker, who rewarded the poet, to his great disgust, with a bare 20 guineas. By June a 2nd edition was called for. Summer appeared in 1737. It was dedicated in prose, a compliment afterwards versified, to Bubb Dodington. In the same year Thomson published his Poem to the Memory of Sir Isaac Newton, with a fulsome dedication to Sir Robert Walpole, which was afterwards omitted, and the verses themselves remodelled when the poet began to inveigh against the ministry as he did in Britannia, published in 1738. It was dedicated to the Speaker, Onslow. In this year, at the suggestion of Rundle, bishop of Derry, one of his

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patrons, he accompanied the son of Sir Charles Talbot, solicitor-general, upon his travels. In the course of these he projected his *Liberty* as "a poetical landscape of countries, mixed with moral observations on their government and people. He probably lived with his patrons the Talbots, leisurely meditating his new poem, the 1st part of which did not appear until the close of or the beginning of But meanwhile his pupil died, and in the opening lines of *Liberty* Thomson pays a tribute to his memory. About this time the poet worked for the relief of Dennis, now old and in extreme poverty, and induced even Pope to give a half-contemptuous support to the bitter critic of the *Rape of the Lock*. It is in the main a set of wearisome declamations put in the mouth of the goddess, and Johnson rightly enough remarks that "an enumeration of examples to prove a position which nobody denied as it was from the beginning superfluous, must quickly grow disgusting. The incident took place probably a little before the production of *Agamemnon*, in which Quin played the leading part. There can be little question that "Rule Britannia," a song in this drama, was the production of Thomson. The music of the song, as of the whole masque, was composed by Arne. For a while, however, he was in flourishing circumstances, and whilst completing at his leisure *The Castle of Indolence* produced *Tancred and Sigismunda* at Drury Lane in It is the last work by Thomson which appeared in his lifetime. In walking from London to his house at Richmond he became heated and took a boat at Hammer-smith; he thus caught a chill with fatal consequences and died on 27 August He was buried in Richmond churchyard. In itself a feeble performance, it is noteworthy for the prologue which his friend Lyttelton wrote for it, 2 lines of which " " He loved his friends " " forgive the gushing tear! I feel I am no actor here " " " were recited by Quin with no simulated emotion.

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### Chapter 3 : The Poetical Works of James Thomson by James Thomson

*Work of the Mystic Seven Concealing and Revealing Gems From the Borderland of Knowledge, With a Few Miscellaneous Poems by Irving B. Hayes Janus, Lake Sonnets, Etc And Other Poems by David Holt The Village; And Other Poems Religious and Miscellaneous by James Dodd.*

The village retains, as outhouse of a farmsteading, the former manse and later village school in which the poet was born. He was baptised on 15 Sept. The minister married, on 6 Oct. James was the fourth child. Thomson, master of Lanark grammar school. After picking up the rudiments in the parish school he was sent to Jedburgh, where the classes, by which he benefited little, were held in the abbey cf. Watson, Jedburgh Abbey, p. From Jedburgh he passed in the summer of to Edinburgh University. There he was in mental revolt against the outworn classical curriculum. At home Thomson had written and burned a quantity of verse. During these years he studied assiduously Spenser and Milton, and his first extant letter to his friend William Cranstoun, dated 11 Dec. He resolved to seek a literary career in London. With letters of introduction to some of the powerful connections of his mother in the south, and with the nucleus of a great poem in his pocket, Thomson set sail from Leith in February His mother had a foreboding that she would never see her favourite son again she died within a few weeks of his departure ; nor did the poet ever revisit the scenes of his youth. Johnson, the lad was relieved of his letters of introduction by a London pickpocket within a few days of his landing at Wapping 27 [? The loss of the documents, tied, according to the traditional story, in a knotted handkerchief, would seem to have been promptly repaired, for Thomson very soon obtained a footing at the houses of Sir Gilbert Elliot, lord Minto [q. Unfortunately, however, his resources were too small to enable him to pay the assiduous court to these gentlemen that the situation required, and at the end of June he was glad to fall back upon the promised aid of a distant kinswoman, Lady Grizel Baillie [q. While under the roof of Lord Binning at East Barnet he began to combine some detached fragments of descriptive verse into what became his first notable poem. As he progressed with his work, Thomson felt the desirability of getting nearer the booksellers and the patrons. His sojourn at East Barnet can have hardly exceeded four months. His desire for a wider circle of acquaintance in the capital was soon gratified. Duncan Forbes was prodigal of introductions to celebrities, including Arbuthnot, Gay, and Pope. There is a story that Thomson dwelt with the bookseller John Millar " during ; a house numbered 30 Charing Cross is still pointed out as his home during part of the same year it is figured in Harrison, Memorable London Houses, p. In the winter of "6 he paid a visit to Mallet at Twyford, the seat of the Duke of Montrose, in Hampshire. Thomson had been compelled during the summer to ask a loan of 12l. The work was dedicated to Sir Spencer Compton Lord Wilmington, who forwarded in the following June a tardy acknowledgment of twenty guineas. In the meantime the success of the poem was assured. Next year the poet changed his publisher, and it was Andrew Millar " [q. Prefixed is an engraving after William Kent, the well-known gardener. The copy of this scarce edition in the university library at Edinburgh is that which was pompously crowned by the Earl of Buchan at Ednam on 22 Sept. The poems sold well in the separate form, and Thomson is said to have reaped over 1,1. In Thomson appealed to the public in another literary capacity. Doran, London in Jacobite Times. Oldfield was especially fascinating in the title-part, and the piece was played ten times with success during the season. In the autumn of Thomson announced to his friend Mallet that he was going to hang up his harp in the willows. In December he was at Paris. The more he saw of foreign countries the more he became confirmed in the opinion that liberty was the monopoly of Great Britain. At Lyons he met his friendly critic Spence. His pupil died on 27 Sept. Such a post brought perfect contentment to Thomson. In May he moved from a modest apartment in Lancaster Court to a cottage in Kew Foot Lane with a pretty garden, in which he subsequently employed a cousin Andrew as gardener. There he lived for the rest of his life. During this halcyon period Thomson was working at his most cherished poem. The ease he anticipated at Richmond was of short duration. The death of Talbot on 14 Feb. Lord Hardwicke, who succeeded to the woolsack, kept the office open for some time, expecting that Thomson

would apply for it; but a combination of pride and indolence restrained him from doing so, and the post was given to another. Rundle from the imputation of heresy. Pope appeared in a box on the first night, when he was recognised by a round of applause, and the Prince and Princess of Wales commanded the seventh night. The intrinsic merits of the piece hardly justified such attentions. Fortunately for the poet a more satisfactory source of supplies was secured during A new but staunch friend and patron, George Lyttelton, first lord Lyttelton [q. It was already a celebrated song in , when the Jacobites deftly altered the words to suit their own cause, and Handel made use of the air in David Mallet; Notes and Queries, 7th ser. These corrections were embodied in the edition inscribed to the Prince of Wales , to which were added two years later the final corrections made by the poet before his death. Much of the work of revision was impaired by a too conscious striving after a Virgilian veneer. Morel, but is disputed by Mr. In July Thomson paid his first visit to Hagley, and there he seems to have made Lyttelton to some extent a partner in the work of textual revision. In Lyttelton became one of the lords of the treasury, and promptly bestowed upon his friend the sinecure post of surveyor-general of the Leeward Islands, from which he drew a clear l. When it was produced at Drury Lane on 18 March Garrick played Tancred, and the part held the stage at intervals down to Genest, vol. Davies, Life of Garrick, i. Early in August, after a rapid walk from London, he stepped into a boat at Hammersmith Mall and was rowed to Kew. He was buried near the font in Richmond parish church, where a brass tablet was erected to his memory by the Earl of Buchan in Armstrong, Andrew Reid, and James Robertson had attended him during his illness, and these, with Quin, Mallet, and Mitchell, followed him to the grave. The poet died intestate; but Lyttelton and Mitchell administered his estate in the interests of the relatives in Scotland. Not one immoral, one corrupted thought, One line, which dying, he could wish to blot. Happily Murdoch, with the support of Millar, energetically intervened, and for the quarto edition of the text adopted was practically that of it was left for Bolton Corney in to restore the text as the poet left it in The superbly printed and illustrated edition of was published by subscription London, 2 vols. With the proceeds a cenotaph, designed by Robert Adam and executed by H. Spang, was erected between the monuments of Shakespeare and Rowe in Westminster Abbey. In it became the residence of Mrs. Boscawen, the widow of the admiral, who treasured in the rooms formerly occupied by the poet a number of Thomson relics. Commemorative lines on Thomson may still be seen upon a board within the grounds of Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park. The notion that he was extremely fat seems contradicted by his activity. He is said, however, to have risen habitually at noon, to have eaten the sunny side off the peaches in his garden with his hands in his pockets, and to have cut his books with the snuffers. He was especially careless about matters of attire, yet was a dandy in the matter of perukes. He also formed a fine collection of prints, and a library of from five to six hundred books. His sensibility was great, so much so that in reading fine poetry he always lost control of himself. It is evident that he was liberal-minded, good-humoured, and free from any mean failings. He had a rare power of attaching friends; the way in which he captivated the good will of Pope is remarkable, and generous to a high degree was the sentiment that existed between him and James Quin. It was he who transmitted the sentiment of nature not only to imitators like Savage cf. From to Thomson was in England the poet, par excellence, not of the eclectic and literary few, but of the large and increasing cultivated middle class. Voltaire, in his amiable mood, spoke highly of its simplicity and the love of mankind which it exhibited. Klopstock and Lessing praised it highly, while to Schlegel it seemed the prototype of all continental descriptive poetry. Unfortunately, unlike his successor, he allowed the false taste of the day to intercept his utterance before it was complete. He was avowedly influenced to some extent in this by John Philips [q. Wordsworth, Highland Girl; Knight, Wordsworthiana, pp. Of this many engravings, mostly very indifferent likenesses, exist. A miniature, presented to the bygone Ednam Club by the Earl of Buchan, is still preserved at Ednam manse. In addition to the above, two oil portraits have been ascribed to William Hogarth; from one of these a good profile was lithographed in by M. Print-room; Dobson, Hogarth, pp. Nichols, , 12mo; , 8vo. A folio edition appeared at Glasgow in 2 vols. Rossetti, with illustrations by T. Seecombe in , London, 8vo, and ; by Gilfillan and Clarke, , , London, 8vo. New edition by J. Tomkins from original Pictures by W. Westall, New York, , 12mo; the

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same, London, , 12mo; new edition, with notes, historical and explanatory, by Dingwell Williams, London, , 8vo the museum copy has manuscript notes and collations by the editor ; Boston, , 12mo; with a biographical and critical introduction by A. Cunningham, London, , 8vo. Redgrave and with the Life of the Author by P.

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**Chapter 4 : Full text of "The poetical works of James Thomson .."**

*Thomson was born in Port Glasgow, Scotland, and, after his He is often distinguished from the earlier Scottish poet James Thomson by the letters B.V. after his name. Thomson was born in Port Glasgow, Scotland, and, after his father suffered a stroke, raised in an orphanage.*

The Morning in the Country Lyttelton, soon after the Death of his Wife De la Cour, in Ireland, on his "Prospect of Poetry " Ancient and Modern Italy compared. Less has been said of his parents than they merit, and from the slight manner in which they have been noticed the idea may have arisen that he was of obscure origin. His father was well descended; and his mother was Beatrix, the daughter and co-heiress of Mr. Thomson was licensed to preach on the 17th of June, , was ordained minister 5 ", Oct. The said day Mr. Thomas Thomson, minister of Ednam, and Beatrix Trotter, in the parish of Kelso, gave up their names for proclamation in order to marriage. Hume, and secondly the Rev. Nicolson, minister of Preston and Buncle. Though his worth was of that unostentatious kind which only entitles him to the praise of being a good father, a good husband, and a good man, performing his clerical duties with pious diligence, and who " This noble ensample to his shepe he yaf, That first he -wrought and afterwards he taught," nearly all human goodness comprised in that character. Vii this gentleman bestowed upon him was well rewarded by the success that attended his exertions. Riccalton his only friend. Sir William Bennet, of Chesters, near Jedburgh, who was distinguished for his wit, honoured him with his kindness, and invited him to spend his summer vacations at his seat. Under the auspices of these generous friends, and of Sir Gilbert Elliot of Miinto, Thomson wrote various pieces; but on the first of every January he destroyed most of his labours in the preceding year, and celebrated the annual conflagration by some humorous verses, stating his reasons for their condemnation. A poetical epistle, addressed to Sir William Bennet, and written in his fourteenth year, and a characteristic little poem addressed to his favourite sister on her parting with her cat, have, however, been lately discovered, and will be found in this edition of his works. From Jedburgh young Thomson was, in Slarch, , sent to the University of Edinburgh, being intended for the Church; but, before he had been three years there, he lost his father, who died so suddenly that he did not see him before his decease, a circumstance which greatly increased his when Mr. Thomson and himself attended it. His widowed mother, who was left with nine children slenderly provided for, was advised to remove to Edinburgh, where she remained, living in an economical manner, until her son James had completed his studies. It appears that Thomson had a great horror of supernatural powers, and that his fear of ghosts and goblins afforded much amusement to his fellow collegians. His bedfellow knowing that he was afraid to remain alone in the dark, quietly left him one night while he was asleep. On waking he rushed out of the room roaring like a frightened child, and calling loudly upon his landlady for assistance. Somerville, who relates this anecdote upon the authority of Mr. Cranston, late minister of Ancrum, who lodged in the same room with the Poet at Edinburgh, attributes his weakness on this subject to the following circumstance. One of the last appearances of these tremendous agents happened, I am speaking in the language of the vulgar, at Woolie, in the parish of Southdean, where tMr. The sequel of the story I have heard, not at second hand, but from the lips of a person, and that of rank and education above the vulgar. Thomson, the father of the Poet, in a fatal hour was prevailed upon to attempt laying the evil spirit. Overwhelmed with consternation, he could not utter another word, or make a second attempt to pray. He was carried home to his house, where he languished under the oppression of diabolical malignity, and at length expired. Only think what an impression this story, I do not say fact, I say this story, for of it there can be no doubt, must necessarily have made upon the vigorous imagination of our young Poet. I am heartily glad of it; and to wave all ceremony, if any thing I can scribble be entertaining to you, may I be damned to transcribe dull books for the press all my life if I do not write abundantly. I fondly embrace the proposal you make of a frequent correspondence this winter, and that from the very same principle you mention; and when the native bright ideas which flow from your good humour have the ascendant over those gloomy ones that attend your

profession, I expect you will not be a wanting. In the first place you must know, though I live in Edinburgh, yet I am but little conversant in the beau monde, viz. If nature had thrown me in a more soft and indolent mould, had made me a Shapely or a Sir Fopling Flutter, if fortune had filled my pockets, I suppose my head is empty enough as it is, had I been taught to cut a caper, to hum a tune, to take a pinch, and lisp nonsense with all the grace of fashionable insipidity, then I could -what could I have done? Xi with broken characters of ladies gliding over my fancy like a passing image over a mirror. But if both nature and fortune had been indulgent to me, and made me a rich, finished gentleman, yet would I have reckoned it a piece of my greatest happiness to be acquainted with you, and you should have had entertainment if it was within the circle of wit and beauty to afford it; but alas! It must be owned, indeed, that here in Edinburgh, to us humble sons of Tippeny, if beauty were as propitious as wit sometimes, we would have no reason to complain of the superior fortune of the fluttering generation; and O! And did ever a fop either justly praise or admire you? Wit and beauty thus joined would be, as Shakespeare has it, making honey a sauce to sugar; and yet another would say that beauty, divine beauty! There is one thing I hear storied, God forbid it be true! I wish Nanny Noble were so comfortably settled as you hint. Tell Mass John, when you see him, that I have a bundle of worthies for him, if once I had received his packet. I designed to have sent you a manuscript poem, but I have no time till next week. Cranston of Ancrum, and of Thomson. Xiii by a club called the Athenian Society. One of them, "On a Country Life, by a Student of the University," and signed with the ifiitial "of his name, shows how early the love of rural scenery and pursuits took possession of his mind, and may be deemed the first conceptions of " The Seasons. This charge is probably unjust, for early pieces afford slight indication of his future powers; and the criticism was far from destroying his attachment to the Muses. It is said that Mr. Hamilton, the Divinity Professor of Edinburgh, having given Thomson a Psalm as an exercise, he made so poetical a paraphrase of it, that the professor and the audience were equally surprised; that after complimenting the writer, Mr. Hlamilton told him that if he expected to be useful in the Ministry he must restrain his imagination, and adopt language more suited to a country congregation; and, according to Dr. Johnson, one of the expressions was indecent if not profane. This story, though not without some foundation, inasmuch as Thomson did write a paraphrase of the th Psalm, is disproved by incontrovertible facts. No paraphrase in verse of a Psalm could possibly have been admitted as an exercise at the University; and the subject referred to was. This piece having fallen under the notice of Mr. Auditor Benson, he expressed his admiration of it; and added, that if the author came to London, he had no doubt his merit would be properly encouraged. When this remark was communicated to Thomson, he determined to try his fortunes in the English metropolis. Cranston furnished him with an introduction to two friends, one of whom was Mr. Elliot, probably a brother of Sir Gilbert Elliot. Towards the end of February or at the beginning of March, , about a fortnight before his departure for London, he wrote the following letters to Dr. XV "Edinburgh, February or March, You are so modest as to desire me to correct any thing I see amiss in your letter to Mr. Elliot, and you will transcribe it again; but I assure you I am not so vain as to attempt it: Your letter to my cousin, I do not doubt, will be considerably useful to me, if I can find him out. I remember I heard that Mr. I do not doubt but if Mr. Colden was advertised, I might have one too, and there will be time enough, for our ship sails not this fortnight, yet during that time, if it can contribute any thing to your diversion, you shall hear from me every opportunity, and when I go to London, you may lay your account of paying out some sixpences. If you have leisure, I could wish to hear from you before I go away, notwithstanding your apostolical conclusion, which I believe is as sincere, and will be as effectual, as the best of them. I am yours, " J. Colden indifferent about me; he, good man, recommnends me to God Almighty: Father of mankind beholds all offspring with a melting eye I have gotten several recommendations, and am promised more afterwards, when I am fixed on any particular view, which would make themn more pointed and effectual; I shall do all that is in my power, act, hope, and so either make something out, or be buried in obscurity. There is, and I am persuaded of it, I triumph in it, another life after this, which depends as to its happiness on our virtue, as this for the most part on our fortune. My spirits have gotten such a serious turn by these reflections, that although I be thinking on Misjohn, I declare I shall hardly force a laugh before

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we part, for this I think will be my last letter from Edinburgh, for I expect to sail every day; well, since I was speaking of that merry soul, I hope he is as bright, as easy, as dddage, as susceptible of an intense laugh as he used to be; tell him when you see him that I laugh in imagination with him, ha! Mass John, how in the name of wonder dragged you so much good humour along with you through the thorny paths of systems and school divinity, considering the many hardy attempts you have had to epitomize Xvii " If you have the opportunity to be at Maxton, in Mr. His first want, says Dr. Johnson, was a pair of shoes; who adds that he had many letters of introduction; but, having tied them up in a handkerchief, they were stolen from him; an accident sufficiently disastrous to a young stranger, in the metropolis, to explain his condition. His first letter to Dr. Cranston, after he came to London, was dated on the 3rd of April, It expresses many fears for his success, and is interesting from the account which he gives of the impression made upon him by his first visit to the theatres. Amidst many playful remarks, and some levity in his criticism on the actors, and especially on the actresses, there is an anxiety manifested about his future career, which shows that the state of his resources and the uncertainty of his plans rendered his mind ill at ease: I was almost out of humour at the letter I wrote for to Mr. However, come what will come, I shall make an effort, and leave the rest to Providence. There is, I am persuaded, a necessary fixed chain of things, and I hope my fortune, whatever it be, shall be linked to diligence and honesty. If I should not succeed, in your next advise me what I should do. Succeed or not, I firmly resolve to pursue divinity as the only thing now I am fit for. Now if I cannot accomplish the design on which I came up, I think I had best make interest and pass my trials here, so that if I be obliged soon to return to Scotland again, I may not return no better than I came away: I was going to bid you suppress that rising laugh, but I check myself severely again for suffering such an unbecoming thought of you to enter into my mind - so much for business. X]X voice, and vastly exceeds them all in acting tragedy. Wilks, I believe, has been a very fine actor for the fine gentleman and the young hero, but his face now is wrinkled, his voice broken; and age forbids the youthful, clear Cibber [? Mills and Johnstoun are pretty good actors. Dicky Norris, that little comical, toothless devil, will turn his back and crack a very good jest yet: Oldfield has a smiling jolly face, acts very well in comedy Porter excels in tragedy, has a short piercing voice, and enters most into her character, and if she did not act well she could not be endured, being more disagreeable in her appearance than any of them. These are a few of the observations I have made hitherto at Drury Lane Theatre, to which I have paid five visits, but have not been at the New House yet. My purse will not keep pace with my inclinations in that matter. Give my service to him. Tell him I laugh at the thoughts of him, and should be very glad to hear from him.

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Parker and Son, Information about the collection: The volumes are listed in numerical order even though it would be more accurate to label them as works in a series; that is, number 6 of the whole series is volume 1 of the complete poetical works of Chaucer. The individual volumes are about pp. Issued in monthly volumes, 2s. The following quote from Sir James Stephen on desultory and systematic reading is also found in almost every individual volume, either on the title page or as the frontispiece: The greatest of them, such as Chaucer, Dryden, Pope, and Burns, often throw more rich and brilliant colours, and sometimes even more clear and steady lights, on the times and doings of our forefathers, than are to be gathered out of all the chroniclers together, from the Venerable Bede to the Philosophical Hume. They are at least the greatest and best commentators on those chroniclers. The necessity for a revised and carefully Annotated Edition of the English Poets may be found in the fact, that no such publication exists. The only Collections we possess consist of naked and frequently imperfect Texts, put forth without sufficient literary supervision. Independently of other defects, these voluminous Collections are incomplete as a whole, from their omissions of many Poets whose works are of the highest interest, while the total absence of critical and illustrative Notes renders them comparatively worthless to the Student of our National Literature. A few of our Poets have been edited separately by men well qualified for the undertaking, and selected Specimens have appeared, accompanied by notices, which, as far as they go, answer the purpose for which they were intended. But these do not supply the want which is felt of a Complete Body of English Poetry, edited throughout with judgment and integrity, and combining those features of research, typographical elegance, and economy of price, which the present age demands. The Edition now proposed will be distinguished from all preceding Editions in many important respects. It will include the works of several Poets entirely omitted from previous Collections, especially those stores of Lyrical and Ballad Poetry in which our Literature is richer than that of any other Country, and which, independently of their poetical claims, are peculiarly interesting as illustrations of Historical Events and National Customs. By the exercise of a strict principle of selection, this Edition will be rendered intrinsically more valuable than any of its predecessors. The Text will in all instances be scrupulously collated, and accompanied by Biographical, Critical, and Historical Notes. An Introductory Volume will present a succinct account of English Poetry from the earliest times down to a period which will connect it with the Series of the Poets, through whose Lives the History of our Poetical Literature will be continued to the present time. Occasional volumes will be introduced, in which Specimens, with connecting Notices and Commentaries, will be given of those Poets whose works are not of sufficient interest to be reproduced entire. The important materials gathered from previously unexplored sources by the researches of the last quarter of a century will be embodied wherever they may be available in the general design and by these means it is hoped that the Collection will be more complete than any that has been hitherto attempted, and that it will be rendered additionally acceptable as comprising in its course a Continuous History of English Poetry. By the arrangements that will be adopted, the Works of the principal Poets may be purchased separately and independently of the rest. The Occasional Volumes, containing, according to circumstances, Poetry of a particular Class or Period, Collections illustrative of Customs, Manners, and Historical events, or Specimens, with Critical Annotations, of the Minor Poets, will also be complete in themselves. As the works of each Poet, when completed, will be independent of the rest, although ultimately falling into their place in the Series, they will be issued irrespective of chronological sequence. This arrangement will present a greater choice and variety in the selection from month to month of poets of different styles and periods, and at the same time enable the Editor to take advantage of all new sources of information that may be opened to him in the progress of publication. General Title-pages will be finally supplied for combining a whole Collection into a chronological Series. Early Ballads Illustrative of History, Traditions and Customs 50 ballads; no authors

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