

**IMAGINATION AND FANCY; OR,
SELECTIONS FROM THE ENGLISH POETS,
WITH MARKINGS OF THE BEST
PASSAGES, CRITICAL NOTICES OF THE
WRITERS, AND AN ESSAY IN ANSWER TO
THE QUESTION "WHAT IS POETRY?"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649701001

Imagination and Fancy; Or, Selections from the English Poets, with Markings of the Best Passages, Critical Notices of the Writers, and an Essay in Answer to the Question "What Is Poetry?" by Leigh Hunt

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LEIGH HUNT

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OR

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Illustrative of those first Requisites of their Art;

WITH MARKINGS OF THE BEST PASSAGES, CRITICAL NOTICES
OF THE WRITERS,

AND AN ESSAY IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION

"WHAT IS POETRY?"

BY

LEIGH HUNT.



NEW YORK:
WILEY AND PUTNAM, 161 BROADWAY.

1845.

10455

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R. CRAIGHEAD'S Power Press,  
118 Fulton Street.

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## P R E F A C E .

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THIS book is intended for all lovers of poetry and the sister arts, but more especially for those of the most poetical sort, and most especially for the youngest and the oldest: for as the former may incline to it for information's sake, the latter will perhaps not refuse it their good-will for the sake of old favorites. The Editor has often wished for such a book himself; and as nobody will make it for him, he has made it for others.

It was suggested by the approbation which the readers of a periodical work bestowed on some extracts from the poets, *commented, and marked with italics, on a principle of co-perusal*, as though the Editor were reading the passages in their company. Those readers wished to have more such extracts; and here, if they are still in the mind, they now possess them. The remarks on one of the poems that formed a portion of the extracts (the Eve of Saint Agnes), are repeated in the present volume. All the rest of the matter contributed by him is new. He does not expect, of course, that every reader will agree with the preferences of particular lines or passages, intimated by the italics. Some will think them too numerous; some perhaps too few; many who chance to take up the book, may wish there had been none at all; but these will have