

**THE LAY OF AN IRISH
HARP; OR, METRICAL
FRAGMENTS**

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The Lay of an Irish Harp; Or, Metrical Fragments by Miss Owenson

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MISS OWENSON

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LAY OF AN IRISH HARP.

Printed by D. & G. Bruce.

THE
LAY OF AN IRISH HARP;
OR
METRICAL FRAGMENTS.

BY
MISS OWENSON. (*Clara Sydney Morgan*)



TRIPLES LIGHT AS AIR. SHAKSPEARE.
VRAI PAPILLON DE PARNASSE. LA FONTAINE.

.....

NEW-YORK :

Published by E. Sargeant, D. Longworth, George Jansen,
Alsop, Brannan & Alsop, Matthias Ward, E. Duyckinck,
J. Osborn, T. & J. Swords, Campbell & Mitchell, M.
Harrison, Saml. A. Burtus, and Benj. Crane.

1808.
c. m. h.

DEDICATION.



TO

JOSEPH ATKINSON, ESQ.

TREASURER OF THE ORDINANCE IN IRELAND,

&c. &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

IN the rites of Heathen piety we are told that a *Dove* was propitiously received where the ability of the votarist was inadequate to an *Hecatomb*. Suffer me then to believe that in

friendship, as in religion, the *motive*, not the *value*, of an offering propitiates its acceptance; and that this little volume will be estimated by YOU, not according to its own worth, but according to *that* sentiment with which it is presented by ME. At some distant day I might solicit your attention to some less "IDLE vision;" but the ardour of gratitude spurns the cold delay of protracted intention, while its impatient feelings call for an immediate avowal. I have therefore seized on this opportunity, not as the *happiest*, but the *first* that occurs of publicly acknowledging the many acts of disinterested friendship I have received from your kindness, and of assuring you that I am, with every sentiment of

DEDICATION.

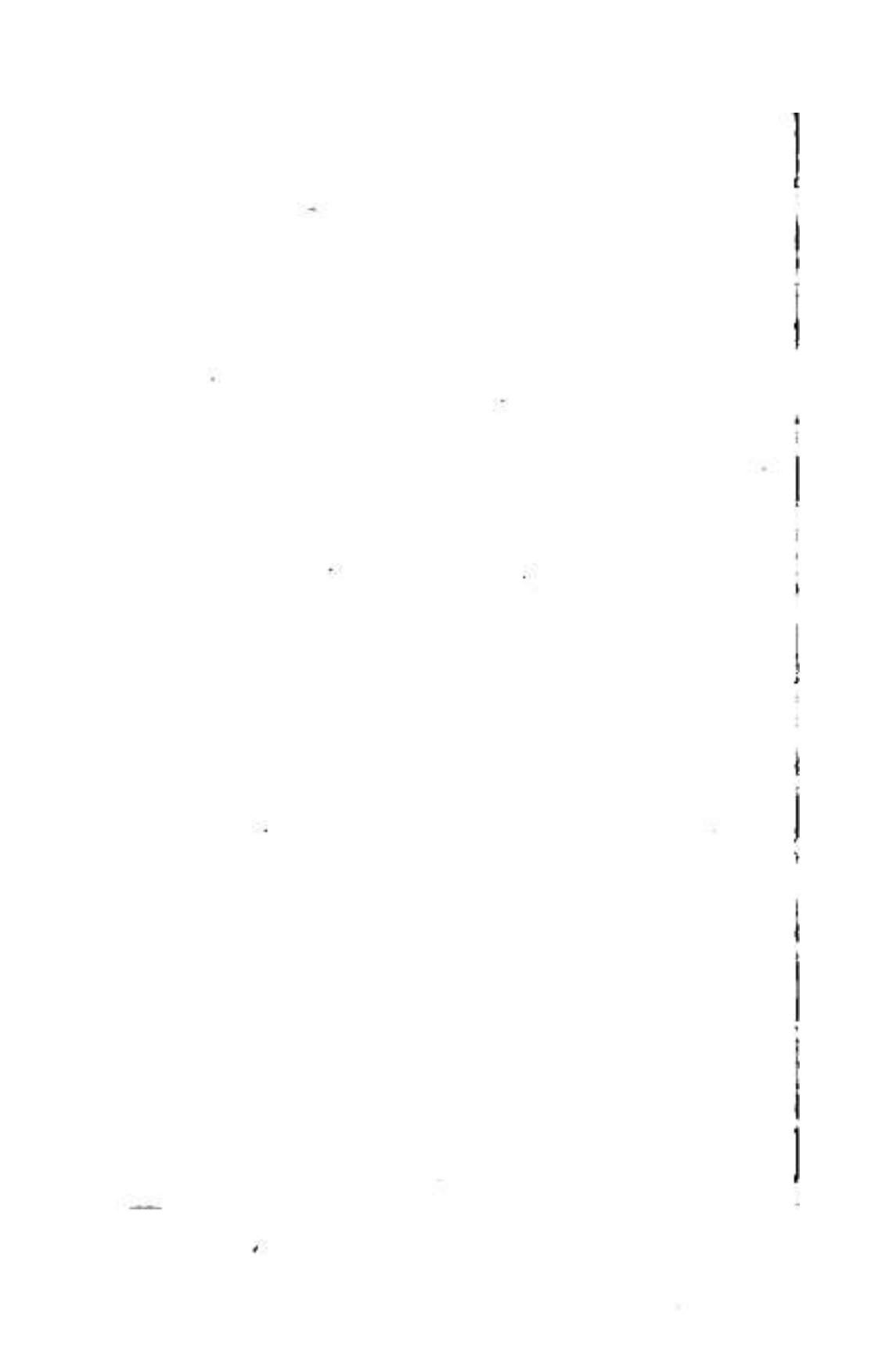
7

respect and admiration for the benevolence of your heart, the liberality of your mind, and the literary taste and talents you possess,

Your obliged

And grateful servant,

SYDNEY OWENSON.



PREFATORY SKETCH.

“ Quelque foibles écrits—Enfants de mon repos.”

VOLTAIRE.

THE Romans had a term exclusively *appropriate* to poetical *trifles*, and the Greeks an epithet as exclusively *applied* to poetical *triflers*.

Neither the Moorish loftiness of the Spanish, nor the elevated gravity of the Italian literature, has exempted them from that species of sportive composition which, though *generally* the effect of *minor talent* (*tasteful in its mediocrity,*) is *sometimes* the effusion of superior genius, in the absence of its higher inspiration. But I believe the French lan-