THE LITERARY REMAINS OF CATHERINE MARIA FANSHAWE

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The Literary Remains of Catherine Maria Fanshawe by William Harness

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WILLIAM HARNESS

THE LITERARY REMAINS OF CATHERINE MARIA FANSHAWE





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ADVERTISEMENT TO THE READER.

HE few notes which will be found in this small collection of Poems are from the hand of the late Rev. William Harness: of the Poems themselves he said that he "never turned to the little treasure he possessed in them without an earnest wish that they should, in a collected form, be rescued from the oblivion that threatened them." With this end in view he printed a few copies; the number must have been very limited, as I have been in search of a copy for years. He printed them, as he said, in order "that some enduring memorial may exist of one who, in her varied accomplishments, her acute perception of the beautiful, her playful fancy, her charming conversation, her gentle and retiring manners, her lively sympathy with the sorrows and joys of others, and, above all, her simple piety, was so cherished a

member of a society, not very extended, but intimately united by a common love of literature, and art, and science, which existed in London at the close of the last and the opening of the present century, and which, perhaps, taken for all in all, has never been surpassed." In reprinting his privately printed volume I am but more fully fulfilling his wish, and I should have been very glad to have enlarged the collection of his friend's literary remains, but I have failed to trace any other pieces written by her. Should, however, any person into whose hands this volume may come enable me so to do, they will greatly oblige not only myself. but some at least of the literary world. Of the merits of the poems themselves I will not speak further than to say that one of them has been long erroneously attributed to Byron, and that another is such a clever imitation of Wordsworth's style, that it deceived "a distinguished friend and admirer" of that poet.

B. M. P.

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POEMS.

EPISTLE TO EARL HARCOURT,

ON HIS WISHING HER TO SPELL THE NAME OF CATHERINE WITH A K. 1801.

A ND can his antiquarian eyes,
My Anglo-Saxon C despise?

And does Lord Harcourt day by day,
Regret the extinct initial K?

And still with ardour unabated,
Labour to get it reinstated?
I know, my Lord, your generous passion
For every long exploded fashion;
And own the Catherine you delight in,
Looks irresistibly inviting,
Appears to bear the stamp and mark
Of English used in Noah's Ark;