

POEMS AND TRANSLATIONS

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Poems and Translations by Philip Stanhope Worsley

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PHILIP STANHOPE WORSLEY

**POEMS AND
TRANSLATIONS**

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THE ODYSSEY OF HOMER.

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE IN THE SPENSERIAN STANZA.

By PHILIP STANHOPE WORSLEY, M.A.,
Scholar of Corpus Christi College.

EXTRACTS FROM REVIEWS.

"We assign it, without hesitation, the first place among existing English translations."—*Westminster Review*.

"These attractions—the romance, the beauty, the affections—have been preserved by Mr Worsley with surprising success. He has given us very much the best version of the 'Odyssey' in our language."—*North British Review*.

"Mr Worsley's scholarship, too, is fully proved; but his poetic faculty is so pre-eminent as to make all else in his qualifications secondary.

Mr Worsley has given the public an instalment of an 'Odyssey' which will win admiration wherever it is read, and which gives as sure indications of the existence of a true poetic vein within him as any of the more successful recent additions to the minstrelsy of our age."—*Saturday Review*.

"Here we stop, with a general adieu to our translators. After what has been said, it would be affectation to pretend that we look forward with quite equal anxiety to the hour of our meeting again with each and all of them; nor will it surprise any one if we part with Mr Worsley more cordially than with the rest, and tell him, in language intended to be more than that of mere critical compliment, that we hope it will not be long before he gives us more of Homer in Spenser stanzas."—*Fraser's Magazine*.

"Mr Worsley has actually achieved in Spenserians what no recent translator has so much as half accomplished, whatever the form of verse be used;—a Homer that can be read with delight by the English people. It will be decry'd by the host of pedants blind to the mere charm of the most exquisite and supple form of antique English verse, and to the refinement of taste, the genuine poetical perception, of which Mr Worsley gives good evidence in almost every page. Nevertheless, if Mr Worsley's version can but fairly find its way into the hands of the public, it will make its own name as a work of genius that brings Homer for the first time as friend and companion to many a simple English hearth."—*Examiner*.

"His translation exemplifies a quality of the Spenserian stanza which was long since established by Shenstone's 'Village Schoolmistress'—its fitness for narrating incidents of extreme natural simplicity to a refined and fastidious age."—*Guardian*.

"Mr Worsley,—applying the Spenserian stanza, that beautiful romantic measure, to the most romantic poem of the ancient world—making this stanza yield him, too (what it never yielded to Byron), its treasures of fluidity and sweet ease—above all, bringing to his task a truly poetical sense and skill,—has produced a version of the 'Odyssey' much the most pleasing of those hitherto produced, and which is delightful to read."—*Professor Arnold on Translating Homer*.

"So admirable a poet is Mr Worsley, that you cannot open his version anywhere without feeling that delight of which Mr Arnold speaks. We recognise in him faculties which will unquestionably place him high among original poets: nor will he ever have cause to regret the self-control which induced him to devote his first energies to Homeric translation. His 'Odyssey' must take a permanent place in English literature; it is impossible to say so much of any other contemporary version."—*Literary Budget*.

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BY

PHILIP STANHOPE WORSLEY



WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS

EDINBURGH AND LONDON

MDCCLXIII

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DEDICATION.

MY DEAR MRS WHITE,

I hope you will pardon my wish to connect your name with the following poems. I can never forget that the perusal of them gave pleasure to your lamented husband,* and that he looked forward to their publication with that warm generosity of heart which led him to make the interests of a friend so completely his own. All who knew him, whether in his writings or by personal intercourse, will at once recall his genial wit and his liberal love of mankind; but it is to that sacred depth in his character, which you alone on earth could thoroughly penetrate, but of which many must have been aware, that my thoughts recur at this moment. In dedicating to you what I have written, to him I dedicate it whose spirit was and still is so indivisibly one with yours. I have no fear that you will reject any affectionate tribute to his memory, however slight and valueless in itself the offering may be.

Believe me, dear MRS WHITE,

Most sincerely yours,

P. S. WORSLEY.

MRS JAMES WHITE, Borchurch, I. W.

* Author of 'Eighteen Christian Centuries,' 'History of France,' &c. &c.

