

**A STUDY OF
WILLIAM SHENSTONE
AND OF HIS CRITICS**

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A Study of William Shenstone and of His Critics by Alice I. Hazeltine

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ALICE I. HAZELTINE

**A STUDY OF
WILLIAM SHENSTONE
AND OF HIS CRITICS**

A Study of William Shenstone
and of His Critics

with

Fifteen of His Unpublished Poems

and

Five of His Unpublished

Latin Inscriptions

A THESIS

PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF WELLESLEY COLLEGE

BY

ALICE I. HAZELTINE

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CHAPTER I
THE MANUSCRIPT

The manuscript that has occasioned this thesis is an attractive little gilt-edged book of about fifty pages, written in the hand of the author, William Shenstone, as is evident from comparison with the facsimile letter inserted in the *Works*. It is enriched with many half-page or full-page water-color paintings, which are almost certainly by the same hand, as we know from the *Letters* that Shenstone amused himself with such work (*Works*, III, pp. 150, 155). There are pictures of groves, winding streams and walks, cascades, lakes, summer-houses, the vistas of the blue hills and of the church spire that he liked so well to look upon, and one that probably shows the "ruinated priory." Besides, there are flowers, emblematic pieces such as he often mentions in his letters, the pheasant, the king-fisher or halcyon, which he chose and designed for his coat of arms (*Percy-Shenstone*, p. 19)†, a picture of the urn to Thomson, and one of that to Eutracia Smith. All are done with the same careful, almost affectionate, attention to finish of detail as is his literary work and even his penmanship.

The manuscript contains forty-seven poems and several Latin inscriptions. Of the poems, fifteen have not been published; others, somewhat changed, are in the *Works*. None of his *Levities* or his *Moral Pieces* are among them, nor is the fourth part of the *Pastoral Ballad*. We find the other three parts, however, as well as the *Ode to Memory*, *The Dying Kid*, and *Princess Elizabeth*. The changes in the poems that have been published are chiefly differences in phrasing. Often, perhaps usually, these are improvements; for example, in the stanza:

The linnets all flock to my groves;
The limes their rich fragrance bestow;
And the nightingales warble their loves
From thickets of roses that blow.

†Thomas Percy and William Shenstone: Ein Briefwechsel etc. See bibliography.