

**THE POET OF THE  
AGE, A  
SATIRICAL POEM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649515141

The Poet of the Age, a Satirical Poem by Various

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
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**VARIOUS**

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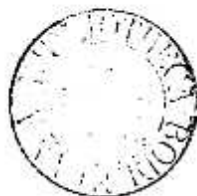
The Poet of the Age.

THE  
POET OF THE AGE.

*A Satirical Poem.*

WITH

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON THE DECLINE  
OF POETRY,  
AND CRITICAL NOTES.



LONDON:  
ROBERT HARDWICKE, 192, PICCADILLY;  
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.  
1862.

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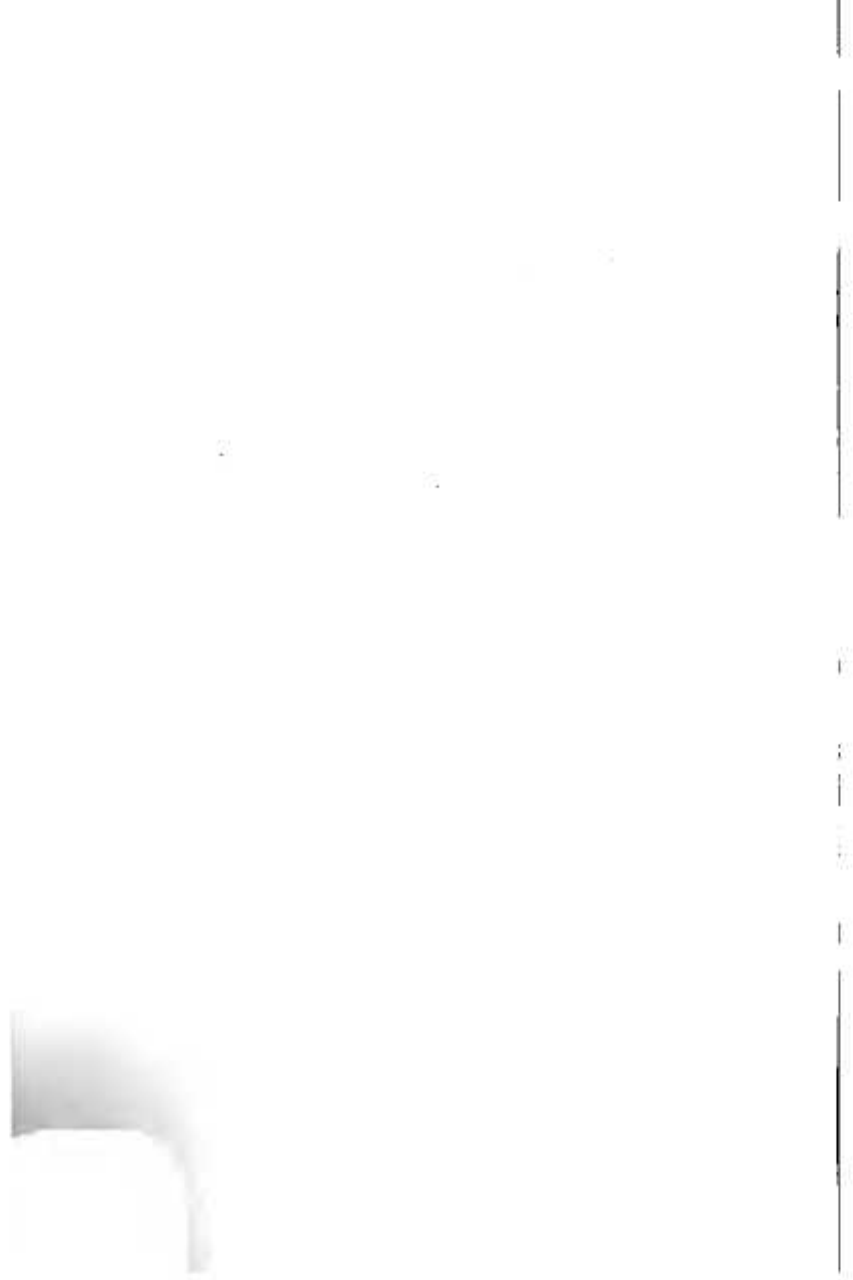


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Introduction.







## INTRODUCTION.

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POETRY, like other things, has its phases; its periods of rise and fall; of revival and stagnation; of favour and discredit; of use and abuse. Its earliest manifestation in modern Europe was simultaneous with the formation of our living languages. An impulse had been given to intellectual exertion by the crusades and the chivalrous achievements of the middle ages; the Troubadours had introduced a taste for songs and ballads; and each nation, as its language became purified from the dross of barbarism, began to evince an appreciation of poetry and an aptitude for metrical composition. Scholars and men of

letters were not wanting to encourage this disposition; and Dante in Italy, Chaucer in England, and Malherbe in France, exhibited specimens of what the art could accomplish even in its rude and infant state. During a period of two hundred years after the death of Chaucer, English literature remained unadorned by any poet of remarkable power. Shakspeare then made his appearance, and by the brilliancy of his genius, the geniality of his humour, his deep pathos, and his vivid portraiture of the human passions, threw a charm round the poetical element, and displayed its force and beauty in a point of culmination unattained by any poet before or since. Another period of stagnation followed the death of Shakspeare; and full fifty years had to elapse ere the stately Milton gave to the world his "Paradise Lost," a poem which for creative power, lofty imaginings, dignified language, and harmonious versification, is unsurpassed in any modern language. Then