

**PHILOCALIA,  
ELEMENTARY ESSAYS ON  
NATURAL, POETIC AND  
PICTURESQUE BEAUTY**

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Philocalia, Elementary Essays on Natural, Poetic and Picturesque Beauty by William Purton

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**WILLIAM PURTON**

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# PHILOCALIA:

ELEMENTARY ESSAYS

ON

NATURAL, POETIC, AND PICTURESQUE

BEAUTY.

BY

WILLIAM PURTON, M.A.



"Neque enim cujusque artis que sit formula nunc querimus, neque nos discipulorum locum, nedum magistrorum, implere volumus; sed indoctorum otiose spectantium. Qui si quando artis ipsius quam ignorant, præcepta edunt, ineptissime arrogantie merito iusimulantur: sin ea tantum conantur explicare, quæ in communi hominum sensu, atque in affectibus omnium sunt posita, venia donantur etiam errantes."

KEMP PRÆLECT. ACAD. III.

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## ESSAY I.

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### F R R A T A .

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- Page 27, line 2 from bottom, *for* unborn, *read* inborn  
Page 59, line 5 from bottom, *for* page 16, *read* page 14.  
Page 61, line 9, *for* declares; *read* deduces  
Page 77, line 13 from bottom, *for* (Sect. iii.) *read* (Lect. iii.)  
Page 85, line 12, *for* male, *read* female, and *for* female, male.  
Page 105, line 14, *for* appertaining, *read* as pertaining  
Page 105, line 7 from bottom, *for* Aristotle, *granting*, *read* Aristotle. Granting.

### WORDSWORTH,

"Heaven holdeth out the key;  
Love turns it, and unlocks to virtuous minds  
The sanctuary of the Beautiful."

MICHAEL ANGLIO.

Translated by J. E. Taylor.

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ESSAY I.  
ON NATURAL BEAUTY.  
WITH AN  
APPENDIX  
ON CRIME AND MORALS.

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"Beauty . . . . . a serene accord  
Of forms and colours, passive, yet endowed  
In their submissiveness with power as sweet  
And gracious, almost might I dare to say,  
As virtue is, or goodness, sweet as love,  
Or the remembrance of a generous dead,  
Or mildest visitation of pure thought,  
When God the giver of all joy is thanked  
Religiously, in silent blessedness."

WORDSWORTH.

"Heaven holdeth out the key;  
Love turns it, and unlocks to virtuous minds  
The sanctuary of the Beautiful."

MICHAEL ANGELO.

Translated by *J. E. Taylor.*



## INTRODUCTION.

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LECTURING on Poetry, from the Professorial Chair at Oxford, Mr. Keble thought it necessary to apologise, in the words quoted on the title-page, for such remarks as he foresaw he should have to make on painting, sculpture, and other arts with which he was not professionally acquainted. Such caution as he imposes upon himself is doubly necessary on my part. I think, however, I shall not be tempted to trespass far beyond the limits of such elementary questions as are the subject of popular discussion, into the realms of art or natural science. My object is, simply to consider what Beauty is in nature and art or poetry. The attempt may seem to argue no little presumption, so emphatically, and on such high authority, has it been denounced as visionary and futile. Dugald Stewart, in his *Essay on the Beautiful*, says, "It has long been a favourite problem with philosophers, the common quality or qualities which entitle a thing to the denomination of the beautiful; but the success of these specu-