SELECT POEMS OF OLIVER GOLDSMITH

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Select Poems of Oliver Goldsmith by William J. Rolfe

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WILLIAM J. ROLFE

SELECT POEMS OF OLIVER GOLDSMITH



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OF

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

EDITED, WITH NOTES,

BY

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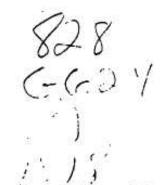
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PREFACE.

THE plan of this little book is similar to that of my edition of The Merchant of Venice and other of Shakespeare's plays.

The text is based on Cunningham's, which is the most accurate of the recent editions. This has been carefully collated with Prior's, Corney's, and the "Globe" edition, and also with many of the early editions, for which I have been especially indebted to the Harvard College Library and to the Athenæum and Public Libraries of Boston. Among these are the 1st, 3d, 4th, and 13th editions of The Traveller, the 1st, 4th, and 7th (an American reprint in quarto, published at Springfield, Mass., 1783) of The Deserted Village, and the 4th of Retaliation.

The 13th edition of *The Traveller* (in the Athenæum library) contains some readings, including one entire couplet (see note on line 374), which I have found in no other edition, early or recent. This edition is undated, and bears no name of publisher or printer. The title-page is as follows: "The Traveller, or, A Prospect of Society. A Poem. By Dr. Goldsmith. The thirteenth edition. London: Printed for the Booksellers in Town and Country."

The notes are fuller than in any other edition known to me. Many of them are original; the rest have been drawn from every accessible source, credit being given in all cases where justice to others or to myself seemed to require it.

Cambridge, July 30, 1875.

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STATUS OF GOLDSMITH .- [BY J. H. FOLEY.]



OLIVER GOLDSMITH .- [PROM A PAINTING BY SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.]

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

By THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY.

OLIVER GOLDSMITH was one of the most pleasing English writers of the eighteenth century. He was of a Protestant and Saxon family which had been long settled in Ireland, and which had, like most other Protestant and Saxon families, been in troubled times harassed and put in fear by the native population. His father, Charles Goldsmith, studied in the reign of Queen Anne at the diocesan school of Elphin, became attached to the daughter of the schoolmaster, married her, took orders, and settled at a place called Pallas in the County of Longford. There he with difficulty supported his wife and children on what he could earn, partly as a curate and partly as a farmer.

At Pallas Oliver Goldsmith was born in November, 1728. That spot was then, for all practical purposes, almost as remote from the busy and splendid capital in which his later